



SUBCOMMISSION ON DEFENSE AND  
PROTECTION OF THE NATIONAL  
COMMISSION AGAINST COMMERCIAL  
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND  
ADOLESCENTS

# DIGEST:

LEGISLATION ON COMMERCIAL  
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN  
AND ADOLESCENTS  
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# DIGEST:

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**REGULATIONS ON COMMERCIAL SEXUAL  
EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS**





**SUBCOMMISSION ON DEFENSE AND  
PROTECTION OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION  
AGAINST COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION  
OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS  
AND ADOLESCENTS**

**DIGEST:**  
**REGULATIONS ON COMMERCIAL SEXUAL  
EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND  
ADOLESCENTS**

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## *INTRODUCTION*

The **Subcommittee for Defense and Protection of the** National Commission against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents (CONACOES), set itself the objective of preparing this document in order to contribute to the effective application of current national regulations related to the commercial sexual exploitation of minors (CSEC).

This compendium is intended as a tool to facilitate access to information on commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents to all those who have within their functions the duty to guarantee, defend and protect the rights of the underage population, and in particular, to the representatives of the Local Networks against Commercial Sexual Exploitation.

It also aims to guide the actions carried out for the comprehensive inter-institutional and intersectoral care of minors who are victims of one of the worst forms of human rights violations.

This document is structured as follows: first, a **background section on CONACOES** is presented, followed by the **concepts related to CSP**; then, the **regulations** on this topic are presented in four sections:

The first of these contains the **legislation** related to the rights of minors, criminal types that describe typical behaviors of crimes derived from ESC, as well as the obligations of officials and persons who, because of their function, have contact with minors. To this end, the cited regulations are accompanied by background information and guidelines to facilitate their interpretation.





The second section mentions the main **decrees** on ESC, which includes a brief reference.

Subsequently, some **votes of the Third Chamber and the Constitutional Chamber** concerning the ESC, as a third section, are presented.

The last section lists some **protocols, circulars and institutional guidelines** that describe procedures for the comprehensive inter-institutional and intersectoral care of minors who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

The document ends with two **annexes** for practical use, the first includes general aspects and indicators on ESC and the other is an institutional directory.

**Subcommittee for Defense and  
Protection CONACOES**



## A BRIEFS

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<b>CCSS:</b>	Costa Rican Social Security Fund.
<b>CNNA:</b>	National Council for Children and Adolescents.
<b>CONACOES:</b>	National Commission against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents.
<b>CPC:</b>	Code of Criminal Procedure.
<b>DGME:</b>	General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners.
<b>DNI:</b>	Defense for Children International.
<b>ECPAT:</b>	End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking for Sexual Purposes.
<b>CSEC or CSEC:</b>	Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents.
<b>STD:</b>	Sexually Transmitted Diseases.
<b>ICT:</b>	Costa Rican Tourism Institute.
<b>INAMU:</b>	National Women's Institute.
<b>IPEC:</b>	International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor, of ILO.
<b>J:</b>	Acronym used in decrees to refer to the Minister of Justice.
<b>MEP:</b>	Ministry of Public Education.
<b>MP:</b>	Public Prosecutor's Office.
<b>MSP:</b>	Acronym for decrees and other documents referring to the Minister of Public Security.
<b>MTSS:</b>	Ministry of Labor and Social Security.
<b>ILO:</b>	International Labor Organization.
<b>UNWTO:</b>	World Tourism Organization.
<b>PANI:</b>	Patronato Nacional de la Infancia.
<b>PANIAMOR:</b>	Foundation for Child Abuse Prevention, Self-Improvement and Counseling.
<b>RREE:</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship.
<b>TUR:</b>	Acronym used in decrees to refer to the Minister of Tourism.





## 1. BACKGROUND

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, approved in 1989 by the United Nations and ratified in Costa Rica in 1990, is the first instrument guaranteeing the human rights of minors and obliges the States Parties to review and adapt their legislation to the new postulates regarding children and adolescents.

During those same years, the country experienced the impact of globalization and accelerated tourism growth with a clear sustainable tourism policy aimed at ecological and adventure tourism, which became the country's main source of income. Unfortunately, behind the back of the formal tourism sector and the authorities, the country was also promoted as an exotic destination tolerant of sex tourism, which significantly affected the most vulnerable children and adolescents.

In 1996, the Patronato Nacional de la Infancia (PANI) as the leading institution in the area of children's and adolescents' rights, in reaction to the crude reality that the country was going through, publicly denounced the situation and proceeded to **form the National Commission Against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents (CONACOES)**. This included the participation of non-governmental organizations, universities and public institutions, totaling 40 representatives with the purpose of forming a common front in the fight against the sexual exploitation of minors.

In 1998, the Childhood and Adolescence Code was approved, which protects the rights of minors in the country and under its Article 176, CONACOES was consolidated as a permanent commission and the highest public policy coordination body at the national level, making explicit and active the State's permanent public policy against CSEC. To this end, CONACOES must



coordinate and articulate internally to diagnose the situation, as well as to coordinate and articulate the elaboration and execution of policies, plans, programs and actions that allow it to integrate, potentiate and maximize the efforts and resources of its member entities, relying on the advice and direction of the Technical Secretariat, then known as the Executing Unit.

At the international level, the III Global Forum against this notorious scourge was held in Brazil, as a continuation of the Stockholm, Sweden, forum in 1996. Many entities, such as End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking (ECPAT) of Sweden, had been working with Scandinavian tour operators, the World Tourism Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to develop and approve the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism, known as the **Global Code of Ethics for Tourism**, which is now in force in many countries.

In 2002, Costa Rica conducted sustainable tourism campaigns promoted by the PANIAMOR Foundation, the Association of Tourism Professionals (ACOPROT), the Association of Tour Operators (ACOT), World Vision Costa Rica, Save the Children Sweden, based on UNWTO and ECPAT initiatives, and with funding from the Costa Rica-Netherlands Agreement on Sustainable Development (FUNDECOOPERACION). It should be noted that the Global Code of Ethics in Tourism (called Code of Conduct) was recently implemented through an alliance between the public and private sectors, under the Agreement between the Costa Rican Tourism Institute and the National Chamber of Tourism (Conv. ICT-CANATUR 27/11/2009) as an activity that seeks to eradicate CSEC and whose executor or technical secretariat is PANIAMOR.

In the area of prevention and promotion, in addition to the important work with the ICT, NGOs and public institutions joined forces in the form of television, radio and written advertising campaigns, as well as brochures to raise awareness of the issue and to denounce it.

At the legal level, great efforts were made in the formulation of proposals and lobbying, resulting in 1999 in the enactment of "Law 7899 against Sexual Exploitation of Minors" and in 2007 in the enactment of "Law 8590 for Strengthening the Fight against Sexual Exploitation of Minors", which provide the legal framework that facilitates the criminal prosecution of criminal actions derived from CSEC.

The National Commission against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents was created by Decree No. 95-0055 with the support of the Board of Directors of PANI, and attached to PANI, presided over by the Executive Presidency of this entity and later assumed by the National Council for Children and Adolescents (CNNA) under agreement CNNA-02-06-2000, as a permanent entity of the CNNA.

CONACOES has a **Technical Secretariat** and **three Technical Subcommittees**: the Defense and Protection Subcommittee, the Prevention and Promotion Subcommittee, and the Subcommittee for Comprehensive Interinstitutional Care.

With the ratification in 2001 of the Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor and in 2002 of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, CONACOES has received international support for the implementation of actions as a specific public policy to eradicate the sale of minors, commercial sexual exploitation and child pornography through the joint efforts of its member entities.

Likewise, with funding from the ILO and the IPEC Program (for the eradication of commercial sexual exploitation) in collaboration with the University of Costa Rica, the "Cyclical Model of Articulated Response" was developed for the detection and comprehensive inter-institutional care of victims.



The **II National Plan for the Eradication of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents 2008-2010** (PNESC), was elaborated in 2007 with broad participation of the members of CONACOES, as a consensual inter-institutional proposal to improve state effectiveness in the promotion, prevention, protection, attention and defense of victims' rights. This PNESC 2008-2010 was incorporated into the National Development Plan 2006-2010, achieving a budget and the effective execution of important goals such as the creation of organized **local networks** against CSEC in **six communities**, which the Plan itself identified as priorities.

These communities are: **Pavas**, belonging to the Central Canton of San José; Canton of **Aguirre**, of the Central Pacific Region; Canton of **Santa Cruz**, of the Chorotega Region; Canton of **Corredores**, of the Brunca Region; Canton **Limón**, of the Huetar Atlántica Region and Canton **Los Chiles**, of the Huetar Norte Region. These networks are coordinated by the Patronato Nacional de la Infancia of each locality, with the participation of the different institutions that make up the Citizen Security and Crime Prevention Sector.



## 2

### CONCEPTS RELATED TO COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

**Approach:** First contact with the minor.

**Comprehensive Inter-institutional Care:** These are all those actions to be carried out by public officials of the competent institutions to ensure shelter, protection, health, education, non-revictimization, and restitution of the exercise of the rights of minors in situations of vulnerability and/or commercial sexual exploitation, in accordance with the Doctrine of Comprehensive Protection and the rights-based approach.

**"Client" Exploiter:** An adult person who pays or promises to pay a minor or a third party to engage in sexual activities with a minor. This act implies the commodification and objectification of a person's body for the performance of a sexual activity in exchange for an economic value, and is therefore considered an activity of exploitation, use and sexual exploitation to the detriment of the human rights of minors.<sup>1</sup> It constitutes "the demand" in the economic circuit, providing the money that feeds the production and reproduction of CSEC.

**Human Rights:** Set of powers that recognize and protect the dignity and integrity of each individual without distinction, embodied in national, international and customary instruments.

**Detection:** Involves the identification of the underage person in a state of vulnerability. Active process aimed at confirming a suspicion and assessing a possible situation of human trafficking through the application of indicators. Includes referral to entities

<sup>1</sup> See Cruz, Fernando and Monge, Ivannia, 2004:13.



competent for identification and immediate attention if necessary.

**Dignity:** Personal quality deserving of respect and merit; having (dignified attitude) decent deserving, not humiliating and inspiring respect. Seriousness and decorum in the way of behaving.

**Commercial Sexual Exploitation:** Occurs when a person or group of persons engage children and adolescents in sexual activities of any kind, to satisfy the interests and desires of others or themselves, in exchange for remuneration or promise of financial remuneration or other benefits or royalties. There are two main forms of sexual exploitation: 1) paid sexual relations (misnamed child prostitution), 2) pornography using minors. The first form occurs with both domestic exploitative clients and foreign tourists and national and international trafficking of persons for sexual exploitation.

**Identification of a situation of CSEC:** Process by which the possible existence of commercial sexual exploitation of minors in any of its modalities is confirmed.

**Best Interest:** Principle of the Paradigm of the Integral Protection of the Rights of Minors. According to article 5 of the Childhood and Adolescence Code: "Any public or private action concerning a person under eighteen years of age must consider his/her best interest, which guarantees the respect of his/her rights in a healthy physical and mental environment, in order to ensure his/her full personal development".

**Intermediary:** These may be persons or organizations willing to profit from the exploitation of children and adolescents. And it is defined as "the person who carries out activities to contact "clients-exploiters" with the sex trader or with the victim, or who, knowing of this activity, provides a service that allows it to take place without receiving additional remuneration in return. The difference with the sex trader and with the sexual exploiter is

that the intermediary may be occasional or not, and performs an activity of cooperation for the sex trader and the sexual exploiter to carry out the criminal activity, collaboration that also becomes criminal because it is considered a form of complicity".<sup>2</sup>

**Pornography:** "Representing a child by any means with real or simulated explicit sexual activity, or representing the genital parts of a child for primarily sexual purposes" (*article 2 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, 2000*).

**Pimp:** A person who promotes, facilitates, induces or recruits adults or minors into commercial sexual exploitation in exchange for economic benefits.

**Minor:** A person from zero to eighteen years of age. According to the Childhood and Adolescence Code in its numeral 2, "(...) a child shall be considered a person from conception to twelve years of age, and an adolescent shall be considered a person over twelve years of age and under eighteen years of age. In case of doubt, the condition of adolescent shall prevail over that of adult and that of child over that of adolescent".

**Revictimization:** Revictimization is turning the minor person back into the victim; it can occur in both the administrative and judicial systems, when he or she is required to undergo multiple interrogations and examinations that affect his or her dignity and sense of privacy.

**Suspicion:** There are certain behaviors or physical, psycho-social and communal indicators that something is happening.

<sup>2</sup> Cruz and Monge, op.cit. p.13.



**Illicit Trafficking of Persons:** Facilitation, conduction and transportation of a person in a State of which said person is not a national or permanent resident, to enter or leave the country, through places not authorized by the General Directorate, evading the established migratory controls or using false data or documents, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit. In addition, when lodging, hiding or concealing foreign persons who enter the country or stay illegally in it.

**Trafficking in Minors:** The recruitment and transfer of children and adolescents from one country to another (international) and from one region to another within the same country (national), with or without their family's consent, with the possibility of deception or coercion, to be used as sexual or low-cost merchandise.

### 3. REGULATIONS RELATED TO COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

On July 12, 1990, Costa Rica ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child through law number 7184. With this international human rights instrument specific to the rights of minors, the State acquires a series of international commitments, which oblige it to make changes in domestic legislation, in order to ensure the comprehensive protection of this age group.

With this, the enactment of several laws aimed at protecting children and adolescents against all types of discrimination and abuse in any form (emotional, neglect, physical or sexual) was initiated.

The Code of Childhood and Adolescence develops all the rights of minors, such as the right to education, to image, to health, and creates protection mechanisms for cases of suspected physical or sexual abuse, imposing on public officials the obligation to denounce.

In the criminal area, with the Law against Sexual Exploitation of Minors, number 7899 of August 17, 1999, several reforms were introduced to the third title of the Criminal Code, creating new criminal offenses related to the commercial sexual exploitation of minors, such as paid sexual relations with a minor, which meant the criminal prosecution of the exploiting "client" and in the same sense separate criminal offenses were established with respect to the dissemination of pornography to minors, previously included in the crime of corruption, among others.



It also came to modify or eliminate crimes that contained elements of a macho and patriarchal culture, such as statutory rape, which was closely linked to the concept of honesty.

The path taken by national legislation in order to strengthen criminal legislation has been promoted since 2003 with a new bill, to reform the previous law and strengthen the fight against all forms of abuse to the detriment of minors, thus with the approval of law number 8590 called Law for the Strengthening of the Fight against Sexual Exploitation of Minors of August 30, 2007, articles 92 and 93 paragraphs 7) and 8) of the Penal Code, which allowed the judicial pardon of the minor with the victimizer, are repealed, thus demonstrating the little importance in the fight against sexual exploitation of minors, Articles 92 and 93 paragraphs 7) and 8) of the Penal Code, which allowed the judicial pardon of the underage person with the victimizer, were repealed, evidencing in this way the little transcendence in the injury to the sexual freedom of the underage person, by allowing the marriage of the victim with the author of the criminal act.

It is clear that given the seriousness and nature (crimes of public action and therefore prosecutable ex officio by the prosecutor) of these crimes, it is not feasible under any circumstances to consider marriage, because seen from the perspective of criminal policy it cannot be considered that judicial pardon has a preventive or rehabilitative effect. On the contrary, it condemns the victim to live with the perpetrator.

*The seriousness and transcendence of the legal rights protected by the criminal offenses related to the commercial sexual exploitation of minors (CSEC) -personal integrity, sexual indemnity and dignity-together with the vulnerability in which a person finds himself/herself due to his/her life cycle, requires that the criminal action in these offenses be public, that any person can report them or that the judicial or police authorities can intervene ex officio within the framework of pro-active investigation policies. There is no justification for a private or quasi-private prosecution regime for these offenses.<sup>3</sup>*

<sup>3</sup> Cruz and Monge, op.cit. p.56.



The following is a list of the laws and articles related to the rights of minors, the special protection they have because of their condition and the criminal prosecution of the conducts typified as crimes.

**A. Legislation:**

- **Code of Childhood and Adolescence**

**Article 5.**

"Any public or private action concerning a person under eighteen years of age must consider his or her best interests, which guarantees respect for his or her rights in a healthy physical and mental environment in pursuit of full personal development.

The best interest determination shall consider:

- a) Its condition as a subject of rights and responsibilities.
- b) Their age, degree of maturity, capacity for discernment and other personal conditions.
- c) The socioeconomic conditions in which it operates.
- d) The correspondence between individual and social interest."

**COMMENT**

<sup>4</sup> Miguel Cillero, 2001:43.

*The best interest of the child provides a limitation, an obligation, a prescription of imperative character towards the authorities. Thus, it guides and restricts decisions regarding minors according to their rights. Therefore, it is necessary to look for the measure that guarantees the maximum satisfaction of these rights. According to Cillero "...it is possible to affirm that the best interest of the child is, nothing more but nothing less, than the integral satisfaction of his or her rights."<sup>4</sup>*



### Article 104.- Right of Complaint

"Minors are guaranteed the right to report an action committed to their detriment and to exercise, through the representative of the Public Prosecutor's Office, the corresponding civil actions."

#### COMMENT

#### Article 111.- Representation of the National Child Welfare Agency

*Obligation of public officials to receive complaints from underage victims of commercial sexual exploitation. See Constitutional Chamber Vote No. 2010-011894, p. 59.*  
"In judicial processes and administrative proceedings involving the interest of a minor, the National Children's Trust shall represent the interests of the minor when his or her interests conflict with those of those exercising parental authority. In all other cases, the Patronato shall participate as an intervener."

#### COMMENT

*Compulsory intervention of the Patronato Nacional de la Infancia when there are conflicting interests.*

- **Penal Code**

**Article 156.- Rape**

"Shall be punished with imprisonment from ten to sixteen years, whoever makes himself or herself or has carnal access orally, anally or vaginally, with a person of either sex, in the following cases:

- 1) When the victim is under thirteen years of age.
- 2) When it takes advantage of the victim's vulnerability or the victim is unable to resist.
- 3) When corporal violence or intimidation is used.

The same penalty shall be imposed if the action consists of introducing to the victim one or more fingers, objects or animals, vaginally or anally, or forcing her to introduce them herself."

**COMMENT**

*Two variants are introduced with this reform: on the one hand, the minimum age at which the consent of a minor to have sexual intercourse is considered valid without constituting the crime of rape.*

*In this way, the protection of victims is extended up to thirteen years of age. On the other hand, the use of animals is included as a possibility of carrying out the typical conduct.*

*The absolute protection of the victim up to the age of thirteen is intended to give effect to the universal principle of special protection, which establishes that children and adolescents must be protected because they are at a stage in their lives when physical, emotional and intellectual changes are taking place.*



are constant and places them in a more vulnerable

**Article 157.) Qualified Violation**

Imprisonment shall be from twelve to eighteen years, when:

covered up through the consent given by the victims in relationships that can be considered abusive due to the

1) The perpetrator is the victim's spouse or a

person linked to the victim in an analogous

relationship of cohabitation.

2) The perpetrator is an ascendant, descendant,

sister or brother of the victim, up to the third

degree by consanguinity or affinity.

3) The perpetrator is an uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, cousin or cousin of the victim, up to the third degree by consanguinity or affinity.

4) The perpetrator is a guardian or the person in charge of the victim's education, guardianship or custody.

5 Law for the Strengthening of the Fight against Sexual Exploitation of Minors. Annotated by the Subcommission of Defense and Protection of CONACOES. San José, 2007

- 5) Serious damage is caused to the victim's health.
- 6) Pregnancy occurs.
- 7) The conduct is committed with the concurrence of one or more persons.
- 8) The perpetrator carries out the conduct by taking advantage of a relationship of power resulting from the exercise of his position, and this is carried out by religious ministers, spiritual guides, members of the Public Force or members of the Supreme Powers".

### COMMENT

*(...)Within the characteristics of the active subject are introduced the spouse or person linked to the victim in a relationship analogous to marriage and those of uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, cousin, cousin up to the third degree by consanguinity or affinity. All of them are relationships of trust, based on credibility, loyalty, solidarity, for which the impact of a crime has, in addition to the concrete result, a greater effect than if it were perpetrated by a stranger.*

*A new consequence is added to the list: pregnancy. This recognizes the seriousness of the physiological, psychological and social implications of pregnancy imposed as a result of rape, especially in minors who are in a particular process of physical, social and emotional development.*

*Section 8 also mentions spiritual guides and members of the Supreme Powers as active subjects whose position of power facilitates the commission of the unlawful conduct because they are representatives of the formal or informal authority.*



### Article 159.- Sexual Intercourse with Minors

"Shall be punished with imprisonment from two to six years, whoever, taking advantage of age, gains access or has carnal access to a person of either sex, older than thirteen years and younger than fifteen years, by oral, anal or vaginal way, with his/her consent.

The same penalty shall be imposed if the action consists of the introduction of one or more fingers, objects or animals through the vaginal or anal canal.

The penalty shall be four to ten years of imprisonment when the victim is older than thirteen and younger than eighteen, and the agent is an ascendant, uncle, aunt, brother or sister by blood or blood relatives, guardian or guardian".

#### COMMENT

<sup>6</sup> The repealed criminal offense of **Statutory Rape** stated: "A prison term of 2 to 6 years shall be imposed on whoever has carnal access to a person of either sex, older than 12 and younger than 15 years, by oral, anal or vaginal way, with his/her consent, ~~but the reform overcame sexist and moralistic concepts that were the basis for the difference in the order of guardianship by sex. Previously, a distinction was made between statutory rape, which referred to the protection of women between 12 and 15 years of age and who were also "honest women"~~<sup>6</sup> .

<sup>7</sup> Article 173 of the Penal Code contemplated the crime of **Sodomy** in the following terms: "Whoever has carnal access with a minor under 17 years of age and over 12 years of age, shall be punished with imprisonment from 1 to 3 years. For the protection of the sexual freedom of men over 12 and under 17 years of age, the crime of sodomy was applied, which did not require any qualification of a moral nature<sup>7</sup> . With the reform, this sexist distinction is eliminated and we return to the historical origin of the crime as seduction (...), without incurring in the distinction by sex and qualifiers of the order of patriarchal morality. (...)

**Article 160. Paid Sexual Acts with Minors**

- The legal right is no longer honesty, and the sexual freedom of persons is protected. This reform also broadens the action beyond carnal access and refers to other forms of sexual aggression, such as oral sex and the introduction of one or more fingers or objects via the anus or vagina. ( )<sup>8</sup>*
- Whoever pays, promises to pay or give in exchange an economic or other advantage to a minor person or to a third party, so that the minor person executes sexual or erotic acts, shall be punished with the following penalties:*
- The only modification incorporated with respect to law 7899 is the increase from twelve to thirteen years of age- in the age of the victim, under the consideration that the age difference between the active subject and the victim is proportionally inverse to their capacity to defend and protect themselves against abuse, so the greater the age difference, the lesser the victim's capacity to develop strategies that allow them to self-determine.*
- 1) Imprisonment from four to ten years, if the offended person is under thirteen years of age.
  - 2) Imprisonment from three to eight years, if the offended person is older than thirteen but younger than fifteen.
  - 3) Imprisonment from two to six years, if the offended person is older than fifteen years but younger than eighteen years."

<sup>8</sup> Law Against Sexual Exploitation of Minors. Annotated by Henry Issa El Khoury and Ivannia Monge Naranjo. San José: Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres. 2006.

## COMMENT

**Article 161. Sexual Abuse against Minors or Incapable Persons**  
introduced here as a modality of the crime. This makes it "Shall be punished with imprisonment from three to eight years, who does in male use payment or promise of payment to a person against whom the possible person of the victim appears them to the agent, it or himself or the person providing which that does not constitute the crime if the payment or promise of payment was not made to the victim. In most cases, minors do not consent to the payment, or years in the offer, from the client-exploiters, but the latter deliver it directly to the pimps or 1) in the offended persons under thirteen years of age.

- 2) The perpetrator takes advantage of the vulnerability of the offended person, or the offended person is unable to resist or corporal violence or intimidation is used.
- 3) The perpetrator is an ascendant, descendant, sister or brother of the victim.
- 4) The perpetrator is the victim's uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, cousin or cousin.
- 5) The perpetrator is the victim's stepmother, stepfather, stepsister or stepbrother.

- 6) The perpetrator is the guardian or person in charge of the victim's education, guardianship or custody.
- 7) The perpetrator carries out the conduct against any of the relatives of his spouse or cohabitant, as indicated in paragraphs 3) and 4) above.
- 8) The perpetrator takes advantage of his or her relationship of trust with the victim or his or her family, whether or not there is a family relationship".

### COMMENT

**Article 161 bis.- Common Provision for Sexual Offenses against Minors**

*The amendment broadens the scope of application, by introducing the relatives of the spouse or cohabitant of the perpetrator and his own relatives by blood up to the third and fourth degree in the collateral line (uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, cousin, cousin). There is no doubt that in both cases trust due to the closeness of the relationship operates as a condition that violates the victim's possibilities of self-protection. The victim's sense of security, her basic trust, is affected, which impacts both her self-image and her perception of interpersonal relationships.*

*As with other criminal offenses, this one modifies the age of the victim so that absolute protection is guaranteed up to 13 years of age.*





The disqualification shall be in force for the entire term established in the conviction, without the possibility of it being diminished by the benefits that, in accordance with the criminal procedural legislation, may be granted to the convicted person."

### COMMENT

#### Article 167.- Corruption

*With this rule, the legislator empowers the judge to impose, in addition to imprisonment as the main penalty, disqualification or interdiction from the exercise of functions as an accessory penalty, for those who promote or facilitate the corruption of an incapable person, by executing or causing another person to execute perverse, premature or excessive sexual acts, even if the victim consents to participate in them or to see them executed, shall be punished with imprisonment of three to eight years, provided that it does not constitute a more serious crime.*

*As added to the Penal Code by Law No. 8874 of October 19, 2010:*  
The same penalty shall be imposed on anyone who uses underage or incapable persons for erotic, pornographic or obscene purposes, in exhibitions or shows, public or private, of such nature, even if the underage persons consent to it."

## COMMENT

*The 1999 reform of the offenses of corruption eliminated the elements of the penal type that imprecisely qualified the typical conduct as "premature", "excessive" and "perverse" contained in this article. The reason why these concepts were eliminated with the 1999 Law against Sexual Exploitation of Minors was that the content and scope of the criminal offense was subject to judicial interpretation, which constituted a problem of legality. For this reason, the description of the concrete conducts that the legislator prohibits and punishes was used, dispensing with ambiguous and indeterminate adjectives. This fundamental change in the legislative technique generated adverse reactions from the judicial operators who pointed out that the description of the conducts that did not fit into other criminal types or were not described in the type of corruption, would remain unpunished.*

*It is for this reason that the law retakes the concept of corruption used before the 1999 reform and returns to these concepts which, for some sectors, are part of a legislative technique of questionable legality. However, the criterion prevailed to return to its previous formulation and use the existing jurisprudence.*

*In this regard, criticisms have been made not only on the indeterminate elements of the criminal offense of corruption, but also on the historical-conceptual assumptions of this offense, where a reconceptualization is proposed based on the postulates of human rights and the principles that inspire the Doctrine of Integral Protection.<sup>9</sup>*

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<sup>9</sup> In this sense, see article by Monge, Ivannia, Orígenes y Reconceptualización del Delito de Corrupción Sexual, published in OIT/IPEC, Ya es hora, Boletín Temático N° 5, San José, Costa Rica, April 2006.



### **Article 168.- Aggravated Corruption**

"In the case of the preceding article, the penalty shall be four to ten years imprisonment, provided that:

- 1) The victim is under thirteen years of age.
- 2) The fact is executed for profit.
- 3) The act is executed with deceit, violence, abuse of authority or any other means of intimidation or coercion.
- 4) The perpetrator is an ascendant, descendant, sister or brother of the victim.
- 5) The perpetrator is the victim's uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, cousin or cousin.
- 6) The perpetrator is the victim's stepmother, stepfather, stepsister or stepbrother.
- 7) The perpetrator is the guardian or person in charge of the victim's education, guardianship or custody.
- 8) The perpetrator carries out the conduct against any of the relatives of his spouse or cohabitant, as indicated in paragraphs 4), 5) and 6) above.
- 9) The perpetrator takes advantage of his or her relationship of trust with the victim or his or her family, whether or not there is a family relationship".

#### **COMMENT**

*Aggravating circumstances of the criminal type are included and the criminal protection of the victim is extended up to 13 years of age, like the other crimes. See comments on article 161.*

**Article 168 bis: Law 8811, Incentive for Corporate Social Responsibility in Tourism:** <sup>10</sup>

"Disqualification from the exercise of commerce shall be imposed for 3 to 10 years, to the owner, manager or person in charge of a travel agency, lodging establishment, airline, tour operator and ground transportation, who promotes or facilitates the commercial sexual exploitation of persons under 18 years of age."

**COMMENT**

**Article 169.- Pimping**<sup>11</sup>

*This criminal offense should not be confused with the crime of pimping; the sanction of disqualification established here is related to the commercial activity of tourism.*

"Whoever promotes the prostitution of persons of either sex or induces them to engage in it or keeps them in it or recruits them for that purpose, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term of two to five years. The same penalty shall be imposed on whoever holds another person in sexual servitude."

<sup>10</sup> Law No. 8811 of June 21, 2010.

<sup>11</sup> Corresponds to Law No. 7899 of August 1999.



## COMMENT

*The action of the crime is broadened with the reform<sup>12</sup>, so that this criminal offense includes not only the action of "promoting" or "facilitating", as it was before, but also "maintaining" a person in prostitution, or "recruiting" him/her for such purposes. Two subjective elements of the type contained in the previous text are eliminated: "for profit" and "to satisfy the desires of others". These elements did not contribute anything to the criminalization of the conduct of promoting or facilitating prostitution, and rather opened a door to allege that the action did not become typical on the grounds that it had not been carried out for such purposes. With the reform, a criminal offense is achieved in accordance with the conducts that characterize the groups, organizations and individuals engaged in this activity. It is important to insist that prostitution of persons of legal age is not prohibited in Costa Rica, nor should it be. In this case, what is being criminally punished is the series of activities aimed at turning this activity into a business. If prostitution were prohibited, the victims would become criminals, which is beyond the scope of republican criminal law. However, what is prohibited is the use of persons for prostitution, promoting the activity, inducing persons to engage in prostitution, and keeping a person in this activity. The last part of the criminal offense includes the criminal prohibition of keeping a p e r s o n i n sexual servitude. These are cases in which technically it is not possible to speak of prostitution, but of forcing a person to provide sexual services to another person, even if there is no remuneration or because it is considered as part of other remunerated services in a relationship.*

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<sup>12</sup> The previous criminal offense of pimping established: "Whoever, for profit or to satisfy the desires of others, promotes or facilitates the prostitution of persons of either sex, shall be sentenced to 2 to 5 years imprisonment".



*The situation may occur more frequently in the case of undocumented foreign adult women who are sexually exploited in exchange for their support or survival. This situation may occur more frequently in the case of undocumented foreign adult women who are sexually exploited in exchange for their support or survival. See Vote p. 53.*

**Article 170.- Aggravated Pimping**

The penalty shall be four to ten years of imprisonment, when one of the actions provided for in the preceding article is carried out and any of the following circumstances also concur:

- 1) The victim is under eighteen years of age.
- 2) There is deception, violence, abuse of authority, a situation of need of the victim or any means of intimidation or coercion.
- 3) The perpetrator is an ascendant, descendant, sister or brother of the victim.
- 4) The perpetrator is the victim's uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, cousin or cousin.
- 5) The perpetrator is the victim's stepmother, stepfather, stepsister or stepbrother.
- 6) The perpetrator is a guardian, or in charge of the victim's education, guardianship or custody.
- 7) The perpetrator carries out the conduct against any of the relatives of his spouse or cohabitant, as indicated in paragraphs 3) and 4) above.
- 8) The perpetrator takes advantage of his or her relationship of trust with the victim or his or her family, whether or not there is a family relationship".

**COMMENT**

*New aggravating circumstances are included. See commentary to article 161 and Vote p. 53.*



### Article 171.- Ruffianism

"It shall be punished with imprisonment from two to eight years, whoever, coercively, makes himself be maintained, even partially, by a person who practices prostitution, exploiting the profits from this activity.

The penalty will be:

- 1) Imprisonment from four to ten years, if the offended person is under thirteen years of age.
- 2) Imprisonment from three to nine years, if the offended person is older than thirteen, but younger than eighteen."

#### COMMENT

<sup>13</sup> What is criminalized is the fact that a person forces another person to support himself through prostitution. "Coercively" means under some form of physical or moral violence, i.e., to live, even partially, from the earnings of persons engaged in prostitution. This term is reinforced by the mention of "exploiting" the earnings from prostitution. By emphasizing the coercive element of the crime, it is possible to state the following: 1) the mere fact that a person is maintained by another person through prostitution is not criminalized, if the person so wishes, because prostitution is not a crime in our country, and therefore, the money obtained through its exercise can be lawfully and freely disposed of; 2) since it is an action that violates the freedom of determination and patrimony, it should be placed in the title that brings together the crimes that affect these legal assets, and not in the title on sexual crimes.<sup>13</sup>  
The variant



*introduced with respect to law 7899 is the increase in the age limit for the offended person. See commentary to article 156*

**Article 172.- Trafficking in Persons<sup>14</sup>**

"Whoever promotes, facilitates or favors the entry into or exit from the country, or the movement within the national territory, of persons of any sex to perform one or more acts of prostitution or to subject them to exploitation, sexual or labor servitude, slavery or practices similar to slavery, forced labor or services, servile marriage, mendicancy, illicit extraction of organs or irregular adoption, shall be punished with imprisonment of six to ten years.

The penalty of imprisonment shall be from eight to sixteen years, if any of the following circumstances apply:

- a) The victim is under eighteen years of age or is in a situation of vulnerability or disability.
- b) Deception, violence or any means of intimidation or coercion.
- c) The perpetrator is the spouse, cohabitant or relative of the victim up to the third degree of consanguinity or affinity.
- d) The perpetrator takes advantage of a relationship of authority or trust with the victim or the victim's family, whether or not there is a family relationship.
- e) The perpetrator takes advantage of the exercise of his profession or the function he performs.
- f) The victim suffers serious damage to his or her health.
- g) The punishable act was committed by a criminal group composed of two or more members".

<sup>14</sup> Amended by Law No. 8720 of March 4, 2009. Law for the Protection of Victims, Witnesses and other Parties Involved in Criminal Proceedings, amendments and additions to the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Criminal Code.



## COMMENT

*Three conducts are typified<sup>15</sup> : "promote" (to initiate or advance a thing, seeking its achievement, to take the initiative for the realization or achievement of something), "facilitate" (to make easy or possible the execution of a thing or the achievement of an end) or "favor" (to help, to protect one; to support an attempt, enterprise or opinion; to give or do a favor)<sup>16</sup> . In the case of the verb "favor", the prohibitive spectrum is broadened, since it indicates a hypothesis different from those of promoting or facilitating.*

*The reform introduces important changes: first, the increase in the amount of the penalty from a minimum of three years to a minimum of six years and in its higher parameter from six to ten years. This shows the willingness of the Costa Rican state to reapproach this conduct and to comply with the commitments assumed when signing the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children (Palermo Protocol, which complements the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime).*

*Another important variant is the regulation of internal trafficking, so that the crossing of borders is not required for the illicit conduct to be constituted.*

*In addition, the purposes of human trafficking, which before the reform were only three, have been expanded to include slavery or practices similar to slavery, servile marriage, mendicancy, illicit extraction of organs and others.*

<sup>15</sup> Law against Sexual Exploitation of Minors. Annotated by Henry Issa El Khoury and Ivannia Monge Naranjo. San José, Costa Rica. 2006.

<sup>16</sup> The meanings of the three concepts are taken from the Diccionario de la Lengua Española, Real Academia Española version, 21st edition, Madrid, 1992.

**Article 173.- Manufacture, Production or Reproduction of Pornography**

"Whoever manufactures, produces or reproduces pornographic material, using minors, their image and/or voice, shall be punished with imprisonment from three to eight years. Whoever transports or brings into the country this type of material for commercial purposes shall be sanctioned with a prison sentence of one to four years".

**COMMENT**

**Article 173bis.- Possession of Pornographic Material**

*One of the variants introduced is the inclusion of the verb "reproduce" to include another possible action and reduce the scope of impunity related to these conducts (for example photocopying those materials already produced).*

"Shall be punished with imprisonment from six months to two years, whoever possesses pornographic material in which underage persons appear, either by using their image and/or their voice."

*The voice of minors is also included for the following reasons: the right to the image involves attributes of the human person that are not restricted to the physical body but involve what is consubstantial to it, such as the voice. See Votes p.56 and 57.*



### COMMENT

#### Article 174.- Dissemination of Pornography

*This is a new crime. It is based on the postulates and principles of human rights, dissemination and exhibits pornography material to minors be in capable persons shall be punished with imprisonment from one to four years. The same penalty shall be imposed on anyone that exhibits, disseminates, distributes or integrates by any means and under any title pornographic materials of which minors are the object where the image is used in a possessive or for these purposes and reproduces an economic activity (...) that requires, on the part of the State, the determination of a very*

### COMMENT

<sup>17</sup> See Cruz and Monge, op.cit. p. 27.

*This is a new crime whose foundations are found in the postulates and principles of Human Rights of children and adolescents. In this regard, it has been stated that: "The possession or possession of pornographic material of minors, which constitutes an injury to the most important interests of this age group, and therefore requires the State to the determination of a clear limit. See Vote p. 58.*

**Article 175.- Participation of Third Parties Related to the Victim by Kinship or who Abuse their Authority or Position.**

"The ascendants or descendants by consanguinity or affinity, the spouse, siblings and any persons who, abusing their authority or position, cooperate by any direct act to the perpetration of the crimes corresponding to this Section and whose participation has not been expressly typified, shall be punished with the penalty of the perpetrators".

**COMMENT**

- **Code of Criminal**

*This norm punishes the participation of third parties, which has not been expressly contemplated as a crime. In this case what is done is to establish that the position of authority of the participant, as well as the closeness of kinship with the victim, increases the vulnerability of the minor, since it facilitates the commission of the crime.*

**Procedure Article 16.**

"Criminal action shall be public or private. When it is public, its exercise shall correspond to the Public Prosecutor's Office, without prejudice to the participation that this Code grants to the victim or to the citizens".

**COMMENT**

*The Public Prosecutor's Office is in charge of carrying out the acts of investigation of the reported facts. In sexual crimes committed against minors, the law establishes that the criminal action is public, that is to say, it corresponds to the Public Prosecutor's Office, although the victim may participate.*

**Article 18.- Crimes of Public Action Prosecutable only by Private Prosecution**

"They shall be crimes of public action that may be prosecuted at private instance:

- a) Contagion of disease and rape of a person of full legal age.
- b) Sexual assaults, neither aggravated nor qualified, against persons of legal age.
- c) Minor and negligent injuries, abandonment of persons, concealment of impediments to marriage, simulation of marriage, threats, violation of domicile and usurpation.
- d) Failure to comply with the duty of support or the duty of assistance and failure to comply with or abuse of parental authority.
- e) Any other offense that the law typifies as such."

**COMMENT**

**Article 31.- Limitation Periods for Criminal Action**

*This rule lists the conducts that can be prosecuted at the request of a private party, which means that the victim must expressly denounce the crime. To the contrary, it must be understood that all crimes that are not in this list are crimes of public action, and therefore, if a request is made to the Public Prosecutor's Office, it will be investigated, even in those cases in which the victim does not denounce, except as sexual harassment.*

- a) Therefore, if a request is made to the Public Prosecutor's Office, it will be investigated, even in those cases in which the victim does not denounce, except as sexual harassment.

committed against minors, in which the statute of limitations shall begin to run when the victim has reached the age of majority. [...]"

### COMMENT

*Complaints for sexual offenses must be filed within a minimum of three years and a maximum of 10 years, depending on the penalty for the offense.*

*When the victim is a minor and there is no complaint, it is possible to file a complaint up to 10 years after reaching the age of majority, where the passage of time and maturity have allowed the passive subject to elaborate/understand that he/she is not guilty of the facts of which he/she has been victim, but that the responsible party is the other - his/her father, stepfather, caretaker, protector, exploiter, pimp, sentimental partner - and this allows him/her to file the complaint. In many cases, it is not until several years after the commission of the crime that the victim is in a position to file a complaint, unfortunately, and before this reform, most of the time this action was already time-barred.*

*The act of reporting is part of breaking the silence, a basic characteristic of the context in which these sexual crimes are committed, which generally take place in the context of secrecy, guilt, shame and secrecy, all of which are covered by impunity.*

#### **Article 62.- Criminal Action**

"Functions. The Public Prosecutor's Office will exercise the criminal action in the manner established by law and will practice the pertinent and useful diligences.







to determine the existence of the criminal act. It will be in charge of the preparatory investigation, under jurisdictional control in the acts that require it.

The representatives of the Public Prosecutor's Office must formulate their requirements and conclusions in a reasoned and specific manner".

### COMMENT

**Article 278: Faculty to File a Complaint** The Public Prosecutor's Office is the prosecution of all crimes that occur in the national territory, "Those who have the knowledge of a crime of public action may report it to the Public Prosecutor's Office to request that it be filed in the jurisdiction of the Judicial Police, unless the action depends on a private instance **and all sexual crimes where the victim is a minor are**, the investigation is not only mandatory, but must also be carried out in the latter manner. Only whoever has the power to urge, in accordance with this Code, may denounce."

### COMMENT

#### Article 279.- Form

*This norm refers to the possibility or power that any inhabitant of the country has when he/she has knowledge of the commission of a criminal act to report it, as a moral imperative, without any obligation to the latter sanction for non-compliance.*

The complaint may be presented in written or oral form, in person or by special representative. In the latter case, it must be accompanied by a power of attorney. When it is verbal, a record shall be drawn up in accordance with the formalities established in this Code. In both cases the official shall verify the identity of the complainant."

### COMMENT

#### Article 280.- Content

*More important than the form of the complaint is that it is presented with as much information as possible, without the complainant substituting the investigative function in the hands of the prosecutor of the Public Prosecutor's Office.*

The report shall contain, as far as possible, the circumstantial relation of the fact, with indication of its authors and participants, injured parties, witnesses and other elements that may lead to its verification and legal qualification."

### COMMENT

#### Article 281.- Obligation to Report<sup>18</sup>

*When a crime of CSEC is reported, it is important that the complainant provides as much information as he/she knows about the facts; however, if the perpetrators or participants are not known, this does not exclude the obligation to report the crime; it will be the responsibility of the prosecutor to investigate to determine their identity.*

- Public officials or employees who become aware of them in the performance of their duties:
- Physicians, midwives, pharmacists and other persons practicing any branch of the art of healing, who become aware of such facts when rendering the aid of their profession, unless the knowledge acquired by them is protected by law under the protection of professional secrecy.
  - Persons who by provision of the law, of the authority or by a legal act are in charge of the management, administration, care or control of assets or interests of an institution, entity or person, with respect to crimes committed to their detriment or to the detriment of the mass or patrimony placed under their charge or control and provided that they become aware of the fact in the exercise of their functions.

In all these cases, reporting is not mandatory if it reasonably risks criminal prosecution of oneself, one's spouse, or relatives.

<sup>18</sup> See vote No. 2010-011894 of the Constitutional Chamber, p. 59.

up to the third degree by consanguinity or affinity, or of a person who lives with the complainant linked to him/her by special ties of affection."

### COMMENT

*The crimes included or pertaining to commercial sexual exploitation are crimes of public action, therefore, due to their nature and the legal right they protect, the legislator considered that any person may file complaints in situations of suspicion that minors are victims of CSEC, and goes even further by specifying responsibilities, on the one hand, in a broad manner refers to any public official who by reason of his or her functions has knowledge of the possible commission of a crime of public action.*

*The obligation is then imposed on health sector officials to report this type of crime, here there is a legal mandate or obligation as a legal imperative, which if not complied with means criminal liability for the official who does not comply with this provision.*

**Article 49.- Reporting Mistreatment or Abuse.**<sup>19</sup> *Childhood and Adolescence Code.*

"The directors and personnel in charge of health centers, public or private, to which minors are taken for care, shall be obliged to report to the Public Ministry any reasonable suspicion of mistreatment or abuse committed against

<sup>19</sup> Articles 49 and 134 are from the Code of Childhood and Adolescence, which, due to their relation to the complaint, have been incorporated here in the section of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

them. The same obligation will have the authorities and the staff of educational centers, day care centers or any other place where these people stay, are attended or any service is provided to these people."

### COMMENT

**Article 134, Criminal Complaints, Childhood and Adolescence Code.**  
This regulation establishes the responsibility and obligation of officials in the health and education sectors, or those who have direct contact with minors because of their work, to report any detriment of a minor is proven in administrative proceedings, the suspicion of mistreatment or abuse.  
Once the existence of signs of mistreatment or abuse, to the detriment of a minor is proven in administrative proceedings, the criminal complaint must be filed immediately. The person or institution acting in the protection of minors may not be sued, even if the accused is not convicted in this venue. If the denounced person has any direct relationship of care or representation with the offended minor, the pertinent action shall be brought at the same time before the family judicial authority".  
Note that the rule refers to the fact that the SUSPECTS are sufficient, it will be the responsibility of the Public Prosecutor's Office as the one in charge of the criminal investigation.

### COMMENT

**Article 322 – Personal Favoring** <sup>20</sup> Penal Code  
It is the protection that covers the institution or person who files a complaint for suspected abuse or mistreatment to the detriment of minors, from being annually sued even when any person denounced is not convicted.  
"A person who, without a premeditated intent to the offense, helps someone to evade investigation by the authorities or to evade the action of the authorities or fails to report the act when obliged to do so" note that the standard makes reference to the fact that **SUSPECTS** are sufficient.

### COMMENT

*All public officials are obliged to report any situation of suspected sexual or physical abuse to the detriment of a minor, if they fail to comply with this obligation.*

<sup>20</sup> Articles 322 and 332 correspond to the Criminal Code; however, due to their relation to the complaint, they were incorporated in the section of the Code of Criminal Procedure.  
*The company would be guilty of this offence under this mandate.*

**Article 332.- Breach of Duties. Penal Code**

"The public official who illegally omits, refuses to perform or delays any act proper to his function shall be punished with disqualification for a term of one to four years. The same penalty shall be imposed on any public official who unlawfully fails to abstain, refrains or excuses himself from carrying out a step, matter or procedure, when he is obliged to do so".

**COMMENT**

**B. Decrees on ESC:**

*In this case, the conduct of the official who without justification and in breach of his duty fails to do, refuses to do or delays any act that is proper to his function is sanctioned. As well as those who should refuse to perform an act proper to their function or excuse themselves from doing so because they are in a condition that requires it, but fail to do so.*

**- Executive Decree 31.763 of April 26, 2004. Regulations for the Control and Regulation of Premises Offering Public**

**Internet Service:** Its objective is to prevent access to pornography and material not suitable for persons under eighteen years of age, in cybercafes, internet cafes or similar. Within the framework of this regulation

The aim is to distinguish by means of external signs those premises that take the necessary measures and offer a service free of access to pornography.

- **Executive Decree 31.764 of April 26, 2004. Regulation for the Operation of Video Game and Cybernetic Games Rooms and the Classification of Games according to the Level of Violence.** Establishes the obligation of distributors and points of sale to apply the classifications of the General Law of Public Shows, for the access of minors.
- **Executive Decree 33028-37353 of May 3, 2006. Regulation of the National Council for Children and Adolescents. Gazette No. 84.** Regulates the conformation and functioning of the National Council for Children and Adolescents and its Technical Secretariat, establishing CONACOES as a permanent commission.
- **Executive Decrees 32.824 of November 8, 2005 and 34.199-G-MSP-J- MEP-S- MTSS-RREE, of March 12, 2005. 2007. Creation of the National Coalition against the Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Persons.** This interinstitutional and intersectoral coalition aims to coordinate and implement an action plan for the prevention, combat, punishment and eradication of trafficking and smuggling, as well as the protection of its victims and the effective prosecution of those responsible.
- **Executive Decree 33.972 MEIC-TUR of July 11, 2007. Reform of the Regulation of Lodging Companies.** Directed to hotels, apart-hotels, motels, guesthouses, hostels, villas, in its article 12, paragraph h), to prevent commercial sexual exploitation activities of children and adolescents within the facilities of the lodging companies.





- **Executive Decree 36012-MINAET-MEIC-TUR of August 9, 2010. Regulations for the Granting of the Certificate of Tourism Sustainability (CST)** that modifies decree 27235-MEIC-MINAET of 5/22/1998. The initial decree 27235 and the subsequent decree 36012, which repeals the first one, have given rise to the ICT program that categorizes, certifies and incentivizes tourism companies according to the degree to which their operation approaches the model of social, ecological and economic sustainability. Social sustainability, according to program studies, commits certified companies to **not allow commercial sexual exploitation** or forced labor of minors, under penalty of losing the awarded CST. It should be noted that the same decree is complemented in relation to the ESC, with Law 8811 of 21/6/2010 on Incentive of Corporate Social Responsibility in Tourism (in the process of regulation by decree). As an annex, Decree 36012 and the regulation of Law 8811 are part of the actions that, in terms of CSR, the ICT has been carrying out together with the important **ICT-CANATUR Agreement** of 27/11/2009 under which PANIAMOR is contracted (effective 9/6/2010), as Technical Secretariat, to be in charge of applying the **Code of Conduct** to tourism companies.

### C. Jurisprudence on ESC:

The purpose of this section is to present some pronouncements on crimes derived from the commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents by the Third Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice and the Courts of Criminal Cassation.

The main value of the jurisprudence is that it allows visualizing the practical application of the criminal types in force to concrete situations that have been denounced, investigated and prosecuted by the Public Prosecutor's Office.

### Pimping. Vote 170-2003, Third Chamber.

"It is different - as in this case - to have a lodging center and use it to promote prostitution by orchestrating a whole process that goes from the recruitment of young women to the administration of the brothel, as has been demonstrated by the convicted Cassation. It would be without any doubt with full knowledge of the following reasons: prostitution, at least two women, obtained the profit from his activity." "ed of being the cause of the existence of prostitution as one of the many evils that afflict our society, but his personal action of having fraudulently facilitated the prostitution of the minors A.Y.P.G, A.A.C. and M.M.S.S., whom he contacted to have sexual relations with men who disembarked in Puerto Caldera, in exchange for a tip in dollars that he obtained from the latter for his intermediation service.

Although he may not have been the one who initiated them into the profession of prostitution, it is certain that his conduct contributed to facilitating or making possible concrete means and opportunities for the exercise of this activity by the minors indicated, while at the same time serving him to profit unduly at their expense, without caring about the danger they might run in the hands of the men to whom he delivered them, but rather being interested in



only for receiving the corresponding tip, according to was proven in the sentence. Second, the crime of Pimping is aggravated "if the victim is under eighteen years of age. years", says Article 170(1) of the Penal Code, not whether the victim has not yet attained full legal capacity..."

### **Paid Sexual Intercourse with a Minor.**

Vote 2003- 782, Third Chamber.

***This crime is not excluded by the fact that the victim has a knowledge of human sexuality superior to that of the average child.*** "(...) It is one thing for a minor to have a greater knowledge of sexuality than that of his peers, but it is quite another for him to be immune to the distortion in his development caused by being offered money for performing erotic acts in front of other people (...)". Therefore, there is no doubt that the legal right argued by the defense counsel was also susceptible of being injured in the facts that are the object of these proceedings".

"The argument is also unacceptable. As stated in the preceding recital, the possibility that the offended minors, in this case K. H. S., had some notion about certain sexual acts, or could differentiate between a malicious kiss and another that is not (for which, by the way, it is not necessary to know much about sexuality), is in no way equal to the girls having an abnormal psychosexual development and, therefore, not protectable in such circumstances (...) (as the law also protects minors who have already been victims of corruption or perverse influences).

**Nor is it required that the offering of the money materializes.** "Therefore, that the promise was is undoubtedly done. Another issue is the defender's requirement that the promise was of imminent, real and real realization. material. If by such adjectives it is understood that the promised compensation must be immediate and inexorable, then the scope of the product is being misinterpreted. semantic of the term, since by definition the fulfillment of the a promise is subject to the performance of the conduct or omission, so that it cannot have those characteristics. Thus understood, no promise would be. Then, for this reason, it is also not possible to require the material exhibition of compensation or its actual existence, because it is not required, or in any other case, in order to configure the offering of an advantage in exchange for performing or not performing an action."

### **Paid Sexual Intercourse with a Minor.**

**Vote 2008-00505. Criminal Cassation Court of the Third Judicial Circuit of Alajuela, San Ramón.**

"Although carnal access with minors over thirteen but under fifteen years of age is contemplated in article 159 (age that is increased to eighteen years in certain cases) and touching or sexual approach with these persons in article 161, there is no doubt that **paid sexual intercourse with a minor is the** one that must be applied when in exchange for such acts there is remuneration or a promise of remuneration or economic advantage or of any other nature. The remuneration or promise of remuneration is what constitutes an element of speciality over



the basic sexual act (consensual carnal access with a minor over thirteen years of age but under fifteen years of age, or

### **Manufacture or Production of Pornography.**

Vote 2004 - 01391, Third Chamber.

***Analysis of the criminal offense. In the case of photographic film, the negative constitutes the support of the pornographic material.*** "From the foregoing, this Chamber concludes that the production of pornographic material implies the process of creation or elaboration that culminates with the incorporation of the message in the support."

"The accused executed the typical verb contemplated in the norm from the very moment he used the minors in the *process of manufacturing or producing* the photographs, regardless of what happened later with the film containing those images. It cannot be lost sight of the fact that the protected legal right has been harmed since

the very moment in which the processing captures the image of the girls with the camera and creates the material support

**Manufacture or Production of Pornography.**

Vote 2005-00958, Third Chamber.

"Therefore, as a first approximation, it should be understood that, according to the wording of Article 173 of the aforementioned Criminal Code (which is located within Title III, on sexual crimes), for certain material to be qualified as "*pornographic*", it is necessary that it includes images of minors, in relation to which its clear and explicit link with sexual purposes cannot be disregarded, which will be deduced from the image itself, or even from the context in which it was produced.

*of* these persons is also punishable. Therefore, this plea is dismissed.





In this sense, the author Fernando Da Rosa, in defining the concept of *child pornography*, refers to the following "... *The Yokohama Congress refers to the definition of pornography in the New Oxford Dictionary: "material containing the explicit description or exhibition of sexual organs or activities, designed to stimulate feelings not so much aesthetic or emotional as erotic..."* (Article that appears on the Internet, at the following address: [www.d-sur.net/fedaro/index.php?p=4](http://www.d-sur.net/fedaro/index.php?p=4)). The same author expands his analysis by referring to three definitions of child pornography used in Europe, in all of which there is always a common denominator, i.e., that the images include a minor in an explicit sexual activity, and that they are intended for the sexual or erotic satisfaction of the user:"

"Pursuant to the foregoing, it is clear that any material relating to a minor, where his or her genital organs are described or exposed, or an activity of a sexual nature, in all of which an erotic purpose or the satisfaction of the user is pursued (which in turn would imply sexual exploitation), must be qualified as pornography."

### **Dissemination of Pornography.** Vote 2005-00154, Third Chamber.

"(...) In this case, it turns out that the exhibition of pornography to the minor, although it obeyed a criminal plan leading to rape, would not be absorbed by rape, since, while the latter protects the physical integrity and freedom of sexual choice of persons (of any age), the exhibition of pornography, as well as corruption, protects the spontaneous





psycho-sexual development of minors. That is, one protects the corporeality of persons and their availability; the other the

### **Mandatory Reporting.**

#### **Vote 2010-011894, Constitutional Chamber**

In this vote, the Constitutional Chamber is clear in pointing out the obligation of public officials to denounce with the utmost promptness and diligence situations of suspected sexual or physical abuse of minors. In this vote, the amparo action filed due to the late action of the director of the Educational Center was declared admissible.





**D. Protocols, Circulars and Institutional Guidelines:**

The following are protocols, circulars and existing institutional guidelines in the country for the comprehensive care of minors who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

**Protocols**

- i. *Government, MEP, INAMU, D.G.M.E., PANI, Ministry of Health and C.C.S.S.:*

**Protocol (Interagency) for the Repatriation of  
Child and Adolescent Victims of Trafficking (2006)**

*National Children's Trust*

**Protocol on Trafficking of Minors (2007)**

The general objective is to provide a comprehensive, effective, interdisciplinary and inter-institutional approach to underage victims of trafficking.

**Specific Protocol for the Integral Protection in Situations of Commercial Sexual Exploitation**  
iii. *Ministry of Public Education*  
**(2008).**

**Binding Provisions for the Detection of Situations of Commercial Sexual Exploitation in the Costa Rican Educational System (2008).**

This document of practical and informative content orients the minimum necessary activities, within the educational system, for the detection and reporting of suspicious situations. It also involves the participation of other sectors of great social importance, which can contribute to stop, prevent and eradicate the sexual exploitation of minors for commercial purposes.



iv. *Ministry of Health, Costa Rican Social Security Fund:*

**Manual for the Care of Children and Adolescent**

v. *Ministry of Health, Costa Rican Social Security Fund, Directorate of Migration and Alien Affairs:*  
**Commercial Sexuality for the Health Sector (2008)**

The purpose of this manual is to guide the effective response

**Protocol of Action for Migration Officials in  
Relation to Minors in Situations of  
Vulnerability (2009).**

The purpose of this protocol is to provide the officials of the General Directorate of Migration and Alien Affairs with the intervention mechanisms for the protection of minors, based on the legal instruments from the national and international legal framework, also through the systematization of rules and procedures to strengthen the approach to national and foreign minors in any circumstance they may find themselves in.

## Circulars

*Public Prosecutor's Office:*

- a) **Circular 22-ADM-2007. Practical Guide for the Reception of Complaints from Victims of Sexual Crimes, Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Crimes Derived from Domestic Violence.**

### ***Reception of Complaints from Victims of Sexual Crimes and Sexual Exploitation of Minors.***

It is important to keep in mind that victims have the right to have their human rights respected at all times, which are based on human dignity. These rights are universal, inalienable and imprescriptible. All persons are equal before the law, therefore, they have the right to equal protection of the law, to receive equal treatment, without any type of discrimination for reasons of sex, race, sexual preference, language, religion, nationality, age, etc. In relation to Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, it occurs when a person or group of persons involve children and/or adolescents in sexual acts, to satisfy the interests and desires of other persons or themselves, in exchange for economic remuneration or any other type of benefit or royalty. It is a serious violation of the rights of children and adolescents and includes various types of crimes.

### ***Aspects to Keep in Mind for the Care of Victims of Sexual Crimes and Sexual Exploitation of Minors:***

#### SCOPE OF WORK:

Complaints of sexual crimes, sexual exploitation and crimes derived from intra-family violence against minors, **filed during business hours**, will be received in the case of the First Judicial Circuit of San José at the Specialized Unit for Sexual Crimes and Domestic Violence; and in the rest of the country at the corresponding prosecutors' offices, based on the place of occurrence of the act.

In cases where the report is made during NON-BUSINESS HOURS, the following considerations must be taken into account:

The rule is that the report is received by the person of legal age (parents or companions of the minor, generally they already have information about what happened), and the minor will receive the report or interview the next day at the Prosecutor's Office of the place where the events occurred. However, in those cases where it is essential for the investigation to receive a report or interview the minor, the following **aspects** should be taken into account:

- **RESPECT FOR THE VICTIM:** Always keep in mind that the victim must be treated with respect, dignity and the necessary sensitivity to the circumstances of the case.
- **EMOTIONAL STATUS OF THE VICTIM.** Take into account consideration of the emotional conditions of the victim. In many cases, due to the traumatic situation suffered, the person may present:
  - Easy crying
  - Depression



- Shame
- Feelings of guilt
- Fears, fear
- Anxiety
- Low self-esteem
- Insecurity
- Difficulties in relating what happened.

In these cases it is important, prior to receiving the report, to establish empathy with the victim, giving her the confidence and security necessary for her to narrate what happened. Also, if necessary, request the assistance of a social worker.

- OBLIGATION TO RECEIVE A REPORT. Must receive the report to any victim, even if he/she does not carry identification documents, requesting all the information that determines his/her address and that may later be useful to locate him/her.
  - RIGHT TO FILE A COMPLAINT. Keep in mind that, if the victim is older than twelve and younger than 18 years of age, in accordance with article 104 of the Childhood and Adolescence Code, he/she has the right to file the complaint directly, in which case he/she will be warned of the obligation to tell the truth. If he/she is under twelve years of age, he/she will not be warned.
  - ACCOMPANIMENT: Inform the minor that he/she has the right to be accompanied by an adult (the minor decides whether he/she wants to be accompanied or not).
- GIVE PRIORITY TO PHYSICAL HEALTH STATUS. In case of that the victim, as a result of the facts, presents some damage to health that requires medical attention,





should be referred without delay to a hospital to receive the necessary care; a report will follow.

- PRIVATE ENVIRONMENT. The complaint should be received in a special cubicle, which guarantees an environment of privacy and trust.
- FREE SPEAKING. Allow the victim to give a free account of the facts, without any questioning or gestures of approval or disapproval.
- VICTIMS' RIGHTS. The victim has the right to receive information related to the criminal process in a clear, simple and understandable manner, as well as on the rights granted to him/her by the criminal procedure regulations (right to bring a civil action for compensation, to become a plaintiff, right to be informed of the resolutions arising in the process, etc.).
- VICTIM ASSISTANCE. In cases that require it, the victim must be transferred (to the forensic doctor, hospital, social work, etc.).
- VICTIMS WITH DISABILITIES. **In those cases in** which the victim has some type of disability (physical, visual, hearing, etc.), conditions must be created by facilitating the appropriate means to allow these persons access to the information.  
to the services provided by the "Administration of Justice."

**b) Circular 22-ADM- 2008: The Following Rules Aim at Uniformity and Optimization of Proceedings for Sexual Offenses and Criminalization of Violence Against Women.**

**1. SEXUAL OFFENSES**

**1.1. INTERVIEWING AND REPORTING CHILD VICTIMS AND WITNESSES OF SEX CRIMES AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.**

Considering the best interests of the minor, in application of the guidelines to reduce the revictimization of minors in criminal proceedings and the protocols of victims' rights, in the case of victims and/or witnesses of sexual crimes and crimes arising from domestic violence, where the victim or witness is a minor. The respective interview and / or complaint will be received by the prosecutor in charge, in his or her office or other premises with conditions conducive to privacy in the reception of the story.

**1.5. TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE OPINION OF THE MINOR.**

When the expert explains to the minor victim, his parents or the family member accompanying him, about the informed consent and the right of abstention, in case his parents or representatives express their opposition to the expertise, when the minor shows his interest in being assessed and makes reference to the facts under investigation, his opinion must be taken into account, considering his age and degree of emotional maturity. The above, as established in our legislation that recognizes minors as subjects of rights (105 of the Childhood and Adolescence Code).



## 1.6. INTERVENTION OF THE PATRONATO NACIONAL DE LA INFANCIA.

### Guidelines

In investigations where the minor is at risk, either because the reported facts occur in the family environment and the protection not constitute a suitable resource to protect the child or adolescent, due to the existence of conflicting interests, or

### Guidelines for the Detection and Comprehensive Inter-institutional Care in Local Networks Against CSEC (2010)

It is a joint systematization of the Technical Secretariat of CONACOES, and of the national representatives of CONACOES whose institutions have competencies from the first level in Inter-institutional Comprehensive Care in situations of commercial sexual exploitation (CSEC): PANI, MS, CCSS, IAFA, IMAS, MEP, DGME, MSP, MP.

It was elaborated based on the observations made both by the national representatives of CONACOES and by coordinators and representatives of local networks, taking as a basis the Cyclical Model of Articulated Responses for the Comprehensive Care of Victims of commercial sexual exploitation, the different Institutional Protocols existing to date, which are of obligatory consultation and application (PANI, MS/CCSS-IAFA, MEP, DGME), as well as the institutional responsibilities and competencies contained in the different institutional organic laws. It constitutes a coordination and articulation effort that **does not replace established institutional protocols and procedures**. It contains a guide for the articulation, coordination and communication of the inter-institutional work of the local networks in detection and comprehensive inter-institutional care, in order to promote the detection and care of minors under the age of 18. in a situation of commercial sexual exploitation.







## SOURCES CONSULTED

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*Law Against Sexual Exploitation of Minors*. Annotated by Henry Issa El Khoury and Ivannia Monge Naranjo (2006). 3. ed. First reprint. San José: Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres.

Law No. 8720 of March 4, 2009. *Law for the Protection of Victims, Witnesses and Other Parties Involved in Criminal Proceedings, Reforms and Addition to the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Criminal Code*.

Law No. 7739 of February 6, 1998. *Childhood and Adolescence Code*.



Law No. 8590. Strengthening the Fight against Sexual Exploitation of Minors. Annotated by the Subcommittee of Defense and Protection of CONACOES (2007). San José, Costa Rica.

Zúñiga, Ulises (2010). *Código Procesal Penal*. IJSA, San José, Costa Rica.

Zúñiga, Ulises (2010). *Código Penal*. IJSA, San José, Costa Rica.

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## ANNEXES

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### ANNEX N° 1

#### General Aspects and Indicators of Commercial Sexual Exploitation<sup>20</sup>

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors, is:

A violation of the fundamental rights of children and adolescents are two main and interrelated forms of commercial sexual exploitation: child sex (misnamed child prostitution) and pornography, generating forced and harmful activities. A major demand for sex tourism and trafficking for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation.

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<sup>20</sup> Taken from "**The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents**", ECPAT International Brochure, Paniamor Foundation, Development Cooperation Ireland and European Union, 2005.



### **Who and how are the Exploiters?**

Commercial sexual exploiters of children and adolescents come from all walks of life and can be found in any country. They can have any sexual orientation, and although most are men, they are also women.

Most of them are networks that make up very lucrative businesses and generally have links to organized crime.

Regarding their area of origin, most exploiters come from the same locality as the victim or from other localities in the country; however, the presence of so-called "sex tourists" from other countries or from other regions of the same country must be increasingly taken into account.

Who are the victims of this type of exploitation?

A victim of commercial sexual exploitation may be a person under 18 years of age, of either sex.

Victims of this type of exploitation can be of any economic status, although people living in economically disadvantaged situations are more vulnerable.

**Some Factors that Make Children and Adolescents Vulnerable to Commercial Sexual Exploitation:**

Being female is a vulnerability factor. Although it is now recognized that there are male adolescent victims.

Poverty is often the first aspect to be considered.

Consumerism is an aspect to be taken into account.

Living and working on the streets. Drug and alcohol addiction.

Power relations between men and women make the problem invisible as they promote women, girls, boys and adolescents as a commodity, thus reproducing the chains of violence.

The influence of the media, particularly television, in projecting the image of women as sexual objects and subliminally relating them to childhood.

The absence of alternatives to enter the labor and social fields.

The ineffectiveness of legal mechanisms, coupled with the incompetence and complicity of some of the authorities in charge of maintaining social order.

The lack of awareness and sensitization of the population to the problem, which is evidenced by an attitude that criticizes and stigmatizes the "victims".



### Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSEC) Indicators<sup>21</sup>

The most frequently detected indicators are:

Presence of sexually transmitted diseases. History of previous sexual abuse with little family support. Abortive family dynamics.

Drug use.

Alienation.

Mendicity.

Absence of responsible adults. Frequent school absenteeism.

<sup>21</sup> Wandering attitude in class (sleepiness, decreased attention, aggressiveness). Manual 2003, Approach to Human Rights Migration, Children and Adolescents. International, Save the Children, p 64 and 65.

Handling of large amounts of money without a verifiable economic source.

Access to consumer goods that exceed the known economic capacity of the family nucleus.

### Some Myths about Commercial Sexual Exploitation

Exploiters often use a variety of excuses to justify themselves:

Myth	Reality
<p>They like it, they would be into that.</p> <p>The silver calls them</p>	<p>No child likes to be used as merchandise by adults, often violent or perverted, who sometimes do not pay them and mistreat them.</p>
<p>They have been malformed since they were little, they are hopeless.</p> <p>They take advantage of tourists and take easy money from them.</p>	<p>They have been abused as children and expelled from their homes.</p> <p>Tourists come with a planned program, and in addition to money they can spread STDs.</p>
<p>Only if they are interned and dealt with rigorously will they get off the streets.</p>	<p>Institutionalization should be the last resort and should be transitory. If her family does not exist for her to live with her, she should, as far as possible, be reinserted in the formal or non-formal education system to provide her with tools for her life project.</p>



<p>They are horny girls, looking for sex with anyone.</p>	<p>Minors have sexual instincts like any human being: when abused, they believe they are worthless and continue to be exploited, by adults and even by gangs or networks of traffickers. Not because they are horny.</p>
<p>Prostitutes are only women.</p>	<p>Another myth: adolescent males also prostitute themselves and there are fixed and well-known places where they exhibit themselves. Some use the Internet to "hunt for clients".</p>





**ANNEX N° 2**

**Institutional Telephone Directory**

**SAN JOSE**

**I Judicial Circuit of San José**

**Public Prosecutor's Office**

Office of the Attorney General of  
the Republic Telephone: 2295-  
4396

2295-3458

Fax: 2223-2602

E-mail: fgeneral@poder-judicial.go.cr;

Juvenile Criminal Deputy Prosecutor's Office -  
Enforcement Unit Telephone: 2295-32-03

Fax: 2295-3342

E-mail: fpenjuv-ejecucion@poder-judicial.go.cr;

Deputy Prosecutor's Office for Domestic Violence and Sexual  
Crimes Phone: 2295-3554

Fax: 2295-3554

E-mail: ue-dsexuales@poder-judicial.go.cr;

Desamparados Prosecutor's  
Office Phone: 2259-2305, 2250-  
0100,

2218-1984, 2251-2708

Fax: 2218-0995

E-mail: des-fiscalia@poder-judicial.go.cr;





Defense and Protection Subcommittee

CONACOES

#### Hatillo District Attorney's Office

Telephone: 2254-8842, 2214-6646

Fax: 2254-4603

E-mail: [hto-fiscalia@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:hto-fiscalia@poder-judicial.go.cr);

#### Puriscal Prosecutor's Office

Telephone: 2416-6132, 2426- 5007

Fax: 24165007

E-mail: [puris-fiscalia@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:puris-fiscalia@poder-judicial.go.cr);

### II Judicial Circuit of San José

#### Deputy Prosecutor's Office of the II Judicial

Circuit Telephone: 2247-9469, 2247-9466

2247- 9433, 2247-9420

2247- 9421, 2247-9323,

Fax: 2247-9423

E-mail: [fiscaliaadj-sgdoc@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:fiscaliaadj-sgdoc@poder-judicial.go.cr);

#### San José Extraordinary Duty Prosecutor's

Office Phone: 2247-9310

Fax: 2247-9310

E-mail: [FISTurnoExt-sgdoc@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:FISTurnoExt-sgdoc@poder-judicial.go.cr);

### Judicial Investigation Organism

#### General

#### Management

Telephone: 2295-

3336,

2295-3337, 2295-3338.

Fax: 2221-5665

E-mail: [oij-direccion@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:oij-direccion@poder-judicial.go.cr); [/oij\\_](mailto:/oij_)

[sudireccion@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:sudireccion@poder-judicial.go.cr);

San José Courthouse, 5th floor.





**Confidential Information Center (CICO)**

Línea 800-8000-645 ( OIJ)

Phone: 800-8000-645

Fax: 2233-1452

E-mail: [cicooij@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:cicooij@poder-judicial.go.cr)

**Reception of Complaints Phone:**

2295-3643, 2295-3644

Fax: 2295-3114

E-mail: [ojj-denuncias@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:ojj-denuncias@poder-judicial.go.cr); Address: Primer Circuito Judicial de San José O.I.J. building, 1st floor.

**Extraordinary Shift Investigations Section (SITE)**

Telephone: 2295-3311, 2295-3272, 2295-3273

Fax: 2295-3588

E-mail: [ojj-servicios@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:ojj-servicios@poder-judicial.go.cr);

**Juvenile Criminal Section**

Telephone: 2295-3574,

2295-3575

Fax: 2295-3298

E-mail: [ojj-pjuvenil@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:ojj-pjuvenil@poder-judicial.go.cr);

**Sex Crimes, Family and against life**

Telephone: 2295-3315,

2295-3316,

2295-3317, 2295-3080

Fax: 2295-3131

E-mail: [ojj-dsxuales@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:ojj-dsxuales@poder-judicial.go.cr);



## Ministries

### Ministry of Public Education

Phone: 2256-7011/ 2258-3745

Fax: 2257-4817

### Ministry of Health

Phone: 2223-0333

Fax: 2256-8410

Web Site: [www.ministeriodesalud.go.cr](http://www.ministeriodesalud.go.cr)

### Ministry of Public Security

Telephone: 2227-4866

Fax: 2226-0726

Web Site: [www.msp.go.cr](http://www.msp.go.cr)

### General Directorate of Migration and Alien Affairs

Telephone: 2299-8100, 2299-8026

Fax: 2220-1627, 2223-1753  
2296-8250

Web Site: [www.migracion.go.cr](http://www.migracion.go.cr)

### Ministry of Labor and Social Security

Telephone: 2542-0000, 800 872-2256

Fax: 25746-33, 256-0649  
(800 JOB)

Web Site: [www.ministrabajo.go.cr](http://www.ministrabajo.go.cr)

## Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS)

### Central Offices

Telephone: 2539-  
0000

Fax: 2521-4025

Web Site: [www.ccss.sa.cr](http://www.ccss.sa.cr)

E-mail: [presejec@ccss.sa.cr](mailto:presejec@ccss.sa.cr);







### **Other Institutions**

#### **Instituto Mixto de Ayuda Social (IMAS)**

Telephone: 2202-4000

Fax: 2224-6386

Web Site: [www.imas.go.cr](http://www.imas.go.cr)

E-mail: [gerencia-general@imas.go.cr](mailto:gerencia-general@imas.go.cr);

#### **National Apprenticeship Institute (INA)**

Telephone: 22324422, 2290-2022

Fax: 2231-4620

Web Site: [www.ina.ac.cr](http://www.ina.ac.cr)

#### **National Institute for Women (INAMU)**

Telephone: 2527-8400

Fax: 2224-3833

Web Site: [www.inamu.go.cr](http://www.inamu.go.cr)

#### **Women's Delegation** Telephone:

2233-7895, 2255-1368

E-mail: [Jsalas@inamu.go.cr](mailto:Jsalas@inamu.go.cr);

#### **Information and Orientation Center**

Telephone: 2221-8357, 2258-3920

E-mail: [sio@inamau.go.cr](mailto:sio@inamau.go.cr) Address: Museo Nacional, 75 meters south

#### **Costa Rican Institute on Drugs**

Telephone: 2527-6400, 2527-6401

Fax: 2524-0127

#### **Office of the Ombudsman**

Telephone: 2258-8585

Fax: 2248-2371

E-mail: [dhr@dfr.go.cr](mailto:dhr@dfr.go.cr);



## **National Child Welfare Agency**

### Telephone Exchange

Telephone: 2523-0700, 2523-0800  
2523-0881

Address: Former facilities of the company Dos Pinos, Barrio Luján.

Websites: [www.pani.go.cr](http://www.pani.go.cr)    [www.miderecho.com](http://www.miderecho.com)

### Guadeloupe Field Office Phone:

2280-9174

Fax: 2280-6200

### Desamparados Local Office Phone:

2259-3285, 2259-0946

Fax: 2219-1730

### Alajuelita Local Office Phone:

2221-9122, 2221-9659

Fax: 2222-6141

### Tibás Local Office

Telephone: 2235-7119, 2241-7669

Fax: 2240-4500

### Local Office San José East

Telephone: 2257-2544, 2258- 2439

Fax: 2258-4875

### San José West Local Office

Telephone: 2221-9033

Fax: 2256-0857

**Puriscal Local Office** Phone:  
2416-6211  
Fax: 2416-7117

**Santa Ana Local Office** Phone:  
2282-9696, 2203- 8239  
Fax: 2282-7704

### **Law Enforcement Delegations**

**Proximity Police Central District of San José Central**  
Delegation  
Phone: 2222-9910

**Proximity Police San Francisco -Zapote Central**  
Delegation  
Phone: 2286-4336

**Proximity Police Uruca - Mata Redonda Central**  
Delegation  
Phone: 2296-7319, 2296-7332

**Proximity Police Pavas**  
Central Delegation Phone:  
2231-3697

**Proximity Police Hatillo**  
Central Police Station  
Phone: 2254-5783, 2254-9303

**Proximity Police San Sebastián**  
Central Delegation  
Phone: 2286-4934



**Proximity Police Escazú**

Central Delegation

Phone: 2228-1274, 2229-2209

**Proximity Police Desamparados**

Central Delegation

Phone: 2250-0822, 2250-0305

**Puriscal Proximity Police**

Puriscal Central Delegation

Phone: 2416-6190

**Proximity Police Aserrí**

Central Delegation

Telephone: 2230-3308, 230-6180

**Proximity Police Mora**

Central Delegation

Phone: 2249-1037, 2249-2058

**Proximity Police Goicoechea**

Central Delegation

Phone: 2529-3231, 2529-3253

**Proximity Police Santa Ana Central**

Delegation

Phone: 2282-6347, 2203-6033

**Alajuelita Proximity Police**

Central Delegation

Phone: 2254-6058, 22143614

Vásquez de Coronado Proximity Police

Central Delegation

Phone: 2229-0212, 2294-2914

Proximity Police Acosta

Central Delegation

Phone: 2410-014, 2410-1558

Proximity Police Tibás

Central Police Station

Telephone: 2236-2619

Proximity Police Moravia

Central Delegation

Phone: 2240-2880, 2240-1991

Proximity Police Montes de Oca Central

Delegation

Telephone: 2225-6750, 2283-0865, 2224-7396

Turrubares Proximity Police

Turrubares Central Delegation

Phone: 2419-0181, 2419-0151

Proximity Police Curridabat

Central Delegation

Phone: 2225-0162, 2225-0923



## ALAJUELA

### I Judicial Circuit of Alajuela

Public Prosecutor's Office

Alajuela Deputy District Attorney's

Office Phone: 2437-0359

Fax: 2443-4202

E-mail: Alj-FiscaliaEP@poder-judicial.go.cr;

Athens Prosecutor's Office

Telephone: 2446-8530, 2446-3772

Fax: 2446-7797

E-mail: Ate-Fiscalia@poder-judicial.go.cr;

San Ramon Prosecutor's Office

Telephone: 2456-9023, 2456-90-24

Fax: 2447-2306

E-mail: fiscalia-sra@poder-judicial.go.cr;

Greece Prosecutor's

Office Telephone:

2494-5865

Fax: 2494-8655

E-mail: gre-fiscalía@poder-judicial.go.cr;

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Alajuela Regional Delegation

Telephone: 2437-0342 (Duty Officer)

2442-2367 (Central Radio  
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(Headquarters)

2437-0337 (Secretary)

Fax: 2441-1160

E-mail: Alj-OIJ@poder-judicial.go.cr;



**San Ramón Regional Subdelegation**

Telephone: 2445-4259

Fax: 2445-7181

E-mail: oij-sra@poder-judicial.go.cr;

**Greece Regional Office**

Telephone: 2494-1733

Fax: 2444-0900

E-mail: ac-oij-gre@poder-judicial.go.cr;

**Atenas Regional Unit Phone:**

2446-8200

Fax: 2446-8200

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**National Child Welfare Agency**

**Address Alajuela Region**

Telephone: 2441-1105, 2430-0478

Fax: 2431-1012

**Alajuela Local Office**

Phone: 2441-0845, 2443-6306

Fax: 2443-5626

**Greece Local Office Phone:**

2494-1949

Fax: 2494-1478

**San Ramón Local Office**

Telephone: 2445-7121

Fax: 2447-1580







**Naranjo Local Office Phone:**

2451-2344

Fax: 2450-0339

**Hospital Centers**

**Hospital San Rafael**

Phone: 2436-1001

Fax: 2436-1072

**Carlos Luis Valverde**

**Vega San Ramón**

Phone: 2445-5388

Fax: 2456-9754

**Hospital San Francisco de Asís- Grecia**

Phone: 2494-6444

Fax: 2494-6445

**Law Enforcement Delegations**

**Alajuela Proximity Police Central**

Delegation

Phone: 2440-8889

**Proximity Police Montecillos**

Central Delegation

Phone: 2440-8890

**Proximity Police San Ramón**

Central Delegation

Phone: 2445-5127, 2445-5619



**Proximity Police Greece**  
Central Delegation  
Phone: 2494-8750,2494-5379

**Proximity Police San Mateo**  
Central Delegation  
Phone: 2428-8358

**Athens Proximity Police**

Central Office Telephone:  
2446-5063

**Proximity Police Naranjo**  
Central Delegation  
Phone: 2450-0052

**Proximity Police Palmares**  
Central Delegation  
Phone: 2452-0244

**Poás Proximity Police**  
Central Office Telephone:  
2448-5076

**Proximity Police Orotina Central**  
Police Station  
Phone: 2428-8010

**Proximity Police Valverde Vega Central**  
Delegation  
Phone: 2454-4021

## **II Judicial Circuit of Alajuela Public**

### **Prosecutor's Office**

Deputy Prosecutor's Office of the II Judicial  
Circuit Telephone: 2401-03-44

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E-mail: [fiscalia-sca@Poder-Judicial.go.cr](mailto:fiscalia-sca@Poder-Judicial.go.cr);

Upala Prosecutor's  
Office Telephone:

2470-0707

Fax: 2470-0344

E-mail: [fiscalia-upala@Poder-Judicial.go.cr](mailto:fiscalia-upala@Poder-Judicial.go.cr);

Guatuso Prosecutor's  
Office Telephone:

2464-0217

Fax: 2464-1011

E-mail: [fiscalia-guatuso@Poder-Judicial.go.cr](mailto:fiscalia-guatuso@Poder-Judicial.go.cr);

Prosecutor's Office of  
Los Chiles Phone:

2471-0006

Fax: 2471-0008

E-mail: [fiscalia-chiles@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:fiscalia-chiles@poder-judicial.go.cr);

### **Judicial Investigation Organism**

San Carlos Forensic Medical Unit

Telephone: 2460-2600.

Extension: 5120 or 5121

Fax: 2401-0322

E-mail: [mlegal-sca@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:mlegal-sca@poder-judicial.go.cr);





**San Carlos Regional Delegation**

Telephone: 2460-24-72, 2401-03-27,  
2401-03-28, 2401-03-25,  
2401-03-26

Fax: 2460-09-22

E-mail: oij-sca@poder-judicial.go.cr;

**Regional Unit of Los Chiles**

Phone: 2471-2131

Fax: 2471-1280

E-mail: oij-chiles@poder-judicial.go.cr;

**Regional Unit of La Fortuna**

Telephone: 2479-7225

Fax: 2479-7225

E-mail: oij-fortuna@poder-judicial.go.cr;

**National Child Welfare Agency**

**North Huetar Regional**

**Directorate** Telephone: 2461-  
0686

Fax: 2461-0656

**Los Chiles Local Office** Phone:  
2471-2122

Fax: 2471-2110.

**Upala Local Office**

Telephone: 2470-  
1215

Fax: 2470-1301.





## Hospital Centers

### ALAJUELA

#### Upala

Phone: 2470-0181, 2470-0058  
2470-0133, 2470-0238  
2470-1775, 24701776  
2470-1620,  
Fax: 2470-0011

#### Los Chiles - Alajuela

Telephone: 2471-  
2000  
Fax: 2471-1278

#### San Carlos

Phone: 2460-1176  
Fax: 2460-4772

## Law Enforcement Delegations

Proximity Police San Carlos Central  
Delegation  
Phone: 2460-0375

Proximity Police Alfaro Ruíz Central  
Delegation  
Phone: 2463-3231

Proximity Police Upala Central  
Delegation  
Phone: 2470-0660, 2470-1010





**Proximity Police Los Chiles**

Central Delegation

Phone: 2471-1183, 2471-1103

**Proximity Police Guatuso**

Central Delegation

Phone: 2464-0257

**Rio Cuarto Proximity Police of Greece Rio Cuarto**  
Delegation

Phone: 2465-5210

**Proximity Police San Miguel Sarapiquí** Phone:  
2476-0175

**CARTAGO**

**Public Prosecutor's Office**

**Cartago Deputy Prosecutor's Office**

Phone: 2550-0357, 2250-0358, 2550-0359

Fax: 2551-3257

E-mail: [fiscalia-car@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:fiscalia-car@poder-judicial.go.cr);

**Turrialba Prosecutor's**

**Office** Telephone: 2558-  
4020

Fax: 2556-2454

E-mail: [fiscalia-tur@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:fiscalia-tur@poder-judicial.go.cr);

**Tarrazú Prosecutor's**

**Office** Telephone: 2546-  
7751

Fax: 2546-2552

E-mail: [ftarrazu-car@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:ftarrazu-car@poder-judicial.go.cr);





Defense and Protection Subcommittee  
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Union Prosecutor's  
Office Phone: 2278-  
1834  
Fax: 2278-8184

**Judicial Investigation Organism**

Cartago Forensic Medical Unit  
Telephone: 2550-0300  
Fax: 2591-6889  
E-mail: mforense-car@poder-judicial.go.cr;

Regional Delegation of Cartago  
Telephone: 2550-0333,  
2550-0474  
Fax: 2591-6055  
E-mail: oij-car@poder-judicial.go.cr;

Turrialba Regional Subdelegation  
Telephone: 2558-4086  
Fax: 2556-7328  
E-mail: ac-oij-tur@poder-judicial.go.cr;

La Unión Regional Subdelegation Phone:  
2279-6558  
Fax: 2279-4344  
E-mail: ac-oij-uni@poder-judicial.go.cr; [Union-jefe@ poder-  
judicial.go.cr](mailto:Union-jefe@poder-judicial.go.cr);

**National Child Welfare Agency**

Address Carthage Region  
Phone: 2553-2092  
Fax: 2553-2092





**Carthage Local Office**

Telephone: 2592-1154

Fax: 2592-0449

**Local Office of La Union Phone:**

2279-8508

Fax: 2279-8505

**Oficial Local Los Santos Phone:**

2546-1082, 2546-1083

Fax: 2546-5300

**Local Office Turrialba**

Phone: 2557-2391

Fax: 2256-6421

**Hospital Centers**

**William Allen Taylor Hospital-Turrialba**

Phone: 2558-1300, 2556-1341

Fax: 2556-6681

**Maximiliano Peralta Jiménez Hospital Cartago**

Telephone: 2550-1999

Fax: 2551-5156

**Regional Directorates Police Units**

**Proximity Police Cartago Tres Ríos Phone:**

25920648

**Central Delegation**

Telephone: 2551-7858



**Proximity Police Paraiso** Phone:  
2574-7355, 2574-49-52

**Proximity Police La Union**  
Telephone: 2279-6044

**Proximity Police Jimenez**  
Phone: 2532-2127

**Proximity Police Turrialba** Phone:  
2556-8265, 2556-0030

**Proximity Police Alvarado**  
Phone: 2534-4019

**Proximity Police Oreamuno**  
Phone: 2551-2717

**Proximity Police El Guarco** Phone:  
2551-1016, 2592-3207

**Proximity Police Tarrazú** Phone:  
2546-6246, 2546-5357

## HEREDIA

### **Public Prosecutor's Office**

**Deputy Prosecutor's Office of  
Heredia** Telephone: (506) 2277-  
0363

Fax: (506) 2277-0362

E-mail: [hda-fiscalia@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:hda-fiscalia@poder-judicial.go.cr);





**San Joaquín de Flores**

**Prosecutor's Office** Phone: 2265-4000

Fax: 2265-8025

E-mail: [hda-fiscalia-sjq@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:hda-fiscalia-sjq@poder-judicial.go.cr);

**Sarapiquí Prosecutor's**

**Office** Phone: 2766-6328

Fax: 2766-6878

E-mail: [spq-fiscalia@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:spq-fiscalia@poder-judicial.go.cr);

**National Child Welfare Agency (Patronato Nacional de la Infancia)**

**Address Heredia Region**

Telephone: 2261-8424

Fax: 2238-3010

**Heredia South Local Office**

Telephone: 2265-1501

Fax: 2265-1840

**Heredia Norte Local Office**

Telephone: 2261-1254, 2237-8627

Fax: 2261-2598

**Sarapiquí Local Office** Phone:

2766-6126

Fax: 2766-6920

**Hospital Centers**

**Heredia**

St. Vincent de Paul Hospital

Telephone: 2261-0091, 2277-2400

Fax: 2260-1384





## Law Enforcement Delegations

### Central Delegation

Phone: 2260-9850, 2262-9232  
2262-5011

### Guararí Subdelegation

Telephone: 2237-6930

### Los Lagos Subdelegation

Phone: 2263-4054

### Barba Branch

Telephone: 2237-  
0835

### San Pedro Subdelegation

Telephone: 2237-5937

### Santo Domingo Branch

Telephone: 2244-0114  
Address: Northeast side of Sports Center

Santa Barbara Branch Phone:  
2269-9209

### Los Cartagos Delegation

Telephone: 2483-1140

### San Rafael Branch

Phone: 2237-2443, 2263-4737

### San Isidro Branch

Phone: 2268-8017





**Belen Branch Telephone:**  
2239-0874

**Flores Branch**  
Telephone: 2265-5784, 2265-6802

**San Pablo Branch**  
Telephone: 2263-  
3539

## **GUANACASTE**

### **I Judicial Circuit of Guanacaste Public Prosecutors Office**

**Deputy Prosecutor's Office of  
Guanacaste Telephone:** (506) 2690-  
0144,2690-0146  
Fax: (506) 2666-0294  
E-mail: lib-fiscalia@poder-judicial.go.cr;

**Cañas Prosecutor's Office**  
Telephone: (506) 2669-0365,2668-7715  
Fax: (506) 2669-1185  
E-mail: can-fiscalia@poder-judicial.go.cr;

### **Judicial Investigation Organism**

**Liberia Forensic Medical Unit**  
Phone: (506) 2690-0100.  
Fax: (506) 2690-0204  
E-mail: lib-medicinalegal@poder-judicial.go.cr;

**Regional Delegation of Liberia**  
Telephone: (506) 2690-0100  
Extensions: 5253, 2690-0129  
Fax: (506) 2666-0185  
E-mail: oij-lib@poder-judicial.go.cr;





**Cañas Regional Subdelegation**

Phone: (506) 2669-3444

Fax: (506) 2669-1966

E-mail: ac-oij-can@poder-judicial.go.cr:

**National Child Welfare Agency (Patronato Nacional de la Infancia)**

**Address Chorotega Region**

Telephone: 2665-5123

Fax 2665-4464

**Liberia Field Office** Phone:

2665-0549

Fax 2666-0068

E-mail: liberia@pani.go.cr;

**Cañas Local Office** Phone:

2668-6810

Fax: 2668-6622

E-mail: dmarinv@pani.go.cr;

**Santa Cruz Local Office** Phone:

2680-0453

Fax: 2680-3452

E-mail: mmorales@pani.go.cr;

**Hospital Centers**

**Enrique Baltodano Briceño Hospital - Liberia**

Phone: 2690-2300

Fax: 2666-1783

## **National Women's Institute (INAMU)**

### **Guanacaste Regional Office**

Phone: 2665-4808

Fax: 2666-7508

E-mail: ofguanacaste@inamu.go.cr;

## **II Judicial Circuit of Guanacaste**

### **Public Prosecutor's Office**

#### **Prosecutor's Office of Santa Cruz**

Phone: 2681-4023, 2681-4024

2681-4084, 2681-4083.

Fax: 2681-4025

E-mail: minpubscr@poder-judicial.go.cr;

#### **Nicoya District Attorney's Office**

Phone: 2685-9026

Fax: 2685-9025

E-mail: nic-fiscalia@poder-judicial.go.cr;

## **Judicial Investigation Organism**

### **Santa Cruz Forensic Medical Unit**

Telephone: 2681-4068

Fax: 2681-4069

E-mail: medicinalscr@poder-judicial.go.cr;

### **Santa Cruz Regional Office**

Telephone: 2681-4063

Fax: 2681-4061

E-mail: oij-scr@poder-judicial.go.cr;





Defense and Protection Subcommittee

CONACOES

**Nicoya Regional Subdelegation**

Phone: 2685-5328, 2686-6736

Fax: 2686-6736

E-mail: ac-oij-nic@poder-judicial.go.cr;

**Hospital Centers** Hospital La

Anexión - Nicoya Phone:

2685-8400

Fax: 2686-6450

**PUNTARENAS**

**Public Prosecutor's Office**

**Puntarenas Deputy Prosecutor's**

**Office** Telephone: 2630-0415

Fax: 2661-1943

E-mail: pun-fisc@poder-judicial.go.cr;

**Prosecutor's Office of**

**Cóbano** Telephone:

2642-0512

Fax: 2642-0859

E-mail: pun-fisc-cob@Poder-Judicial.go.cr;

**Aguirre and Parrita Prosecutor's**

**Office** Phone: 2777-0173

Fax: 27-77-30-20

E-mail: pun-fisque@poderjudicial.go.cr;

**Garabito Prosecutor's Office**

Phone: 2643-3686, 2643-5892

Fax: 2643-15-61

E-mail: pun-fisc-gar@poder-judicial.go.cr;





### Judicial Investigation Organism

#### Puntarenas Forensic Medical Unit

Telephone: 2630-0300

Extension: 2724, 5725

Fax: 2630-0324

E-mail: [pun-medfor@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:pun-medfor@poder-judicial.go.cr);

#### Regional Delegation of Puntarenas

Telephone: 2630-0375, 2630-0376

2630-0377

Fax: 2630-0384

E-mail: [oij-pun@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:oij-pun@poder-judicial.go.cr);

#### Aguirre and Parrita Regional Subdelegation (Quepos)

Telephone: 2777-0511

Fax: 2777-1511

E-mail: [ac-oij-agu@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:ac-oij-agu@poder-judicial.go.cr);

#### Garabito Regional Subdelegation (Jacó)

Telephone: 2643-1723

Fax: 2643-1731

E-mail: [ac-oij-gar@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:ac-oij-gar@poder-judicial.go.cr);

#### Cóbano Regional Office

Telephone: 2642-0480

Fax: 2642-0070

E-mail: [ac-oij-cob@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:ac-oij-cob@poder-judicial.go.cr);

#### Monteverde Regional Unit

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Fax: 2645-7049

E-mail: [pun-oij-mve@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:pun-oij-mve@poder-judicial.go.cr);



**Orotina Regional Unit Phone:**

2428-3106

Fax: 2428-3106

**National Women's Institute (INAMU)**

**Regional Office**

Phone: 2664-4125, 2661-3634

Fax: 2664-4702

E-mail: [ofpuntarenas@inamu.go.cr](mailto:ofpuntarenas@inamu.go.cr)/ [gsalas@inamu.go.cr](mailto:gsalas@inamu.go.cr)

**National Child Welfare Agency**

**Address Central Pacific Region**

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Fax: 2664-4179

**Paquera Local Office Phone:**

2641-1100

Fax: 2641-1101

**Puntarenas Local Office Phone:**

2661-3567, 2661-0034

Fax: 2661-4424

**Orotina Local Office**

Phone: 2427-8858

Fax: 2427-8859

**Aguirre Local Office**

Phone: 2777-3000

Fax: 2777-2119



### **Hospital Centers**

#### **Víctor Manuel Sanabria Martínez Hospital**

Telephone: 2663-0033, 2663-6752

Fax: 2663-6752

### **Law Enforcement Delegations**

#### **Central Delegation**

Phone: 2661-0640, 2661-3616

#### **Chacarita Subdelegation**

Telephone: 2663-3791

#### **Fray Casiano Subdelegation**

Telephone: 2663-0457

#### **Roble Subdelegation**

Phone: 2663-3923

#### **Barranca Subdelegation**

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#### **Delegation of Chomes**

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#### **Paquera Branch Office**

Phone: 2641-0667

#### **Proximity Police Esparza**

Phone: 2635-5165



Defense and Protection Subcommittee

CONACOES

Proximity Police Montes de Oro Telephone:  
2639-9132

Proximity Police Aguirre  
Phone: 2777-0196

London Subdelegation  
Phone: 2777-0011  
Garabito Proximity Police  
Phone: 2643-3011

Quebrada Ganado Subdelegation  
Telephone: 2637-0704

Tárcoles Subdelegation  
Telephone: 2637-0492

Proximity Police Parrita  
Telephone: 2779-9053

## ATLANTIC ZONE

### Public Prosecutor's Office

#### I Judicial Circuit of the Atlantic Zone

Atlantic Zone Deputy Prosecutor's Office  
Phone: 2799-1339  
Fax: 2798-3751  
E-mail: [fiscalialim@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:fiscalialim@poder-judicial.go.cr);

Bribri Prosecutor's  
Office Phone: 2751-  
0135  
Fax: 2751-0259  
E-mail: [fiscaliabri@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:fiscaliabri@poder-judicial.go.cr);





### **Judicial Investigation Organism**

#### **Limón Forensic Medical Unit**

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Extension: 6293

Fax: 2798-3936

E-mail: [lim-medlegal@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:lim-medlegal@poder-judicial.go.cr);

#### **Regional Delegation of Limón**

Telephone: 2798-0252, 2799-1437

2799-1332

Fax: 2798-3936

E-mail: [oij-lim@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:oij-lim@poder-judicial.go.cr);

**Bri Bri Regional Unit** Phone:  
2751-0252

Fax: 2751-0240

E-mail: [oijbribri@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:oijbribri@poder-judicial.go.cr);

### **National Child Welfare Agency (Patronato Nacional de la Infancia)**

#### **Address Huetar Atlántica Region**

Telephone: 2758-0621

Fax: 2758-7429

**Limón Local Office.** Telephone:

2758-1131, 2758-4363

Fax: 2758-7026

#### **Talamanca Local Office**

Phone: 2751-0155

Fax: 2751-0439







CONACOES

**Pococí Local Office**

Phone: 2711-0864

Fax: 2711-1622

**Siquirres Local Office**

Phone: 2768-8261

Fax: 2768-9998

**Hospital Centers**

**Tony Facio Castro Hospital**

Phone: 2758-2222

Fax: 2798-4324

**Hospital de Guápiles**

Phone: 2710-7260

Emergency: 2710-2002

Fax: 2710-6804

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**Proximity Police Limón**

Central Delegation

Phone: 2798-5308,2758-0365

2758-1285

Fax: 2758-5586

E-mail: splimon@hotmail.com;

**Proximity Police Talamanca Central**

Delegation

Phone: 2751-0003

Fax: 2751-0003

E-mail: sptalamanca@hotmail.com;

## **II Judicial Circuit of the Atlantic Zone**

### **Public Prosecutor's Office**

Pococí and Guápiles Prosecutor's  
Office Phone: 2713-6156  
Fax: 2710-3848  
E-mail: poc-fiscalia@poder-judicial.go.cr;

Siquirres Prosecutor's Office  
Phone: 2768-2417, 2768-9418  
Fax: 2768-5029  
E-mail: Siq-Fiscalía@poder-judicial.go.cr;

### **Judicial Investigation Organism**

Regional Delegation of Pococí-Guácimo  
Telephone: 2710-1865  
Fax: 2710-1355  
E-mail: oij-gua@poder-judicial.go.cr;

Siquirres Regional Subdelegation  
Phone: 2768-84877  
Fax: 2768-6003  
E-mail: ac-oij-siq@poder-judicial.go.cr;

### **Law Enforcement Delegations**

Proximity Police Pococí Central  
Delegation  
Phone: 22710-6571, 2710-6231  
E-mail: pococi@msp.go.cr;



**Proximity Police Siquirres**

Central Delegation

Phone: 2768-8797

E-mail: [siquirres@msp.go.cr](mailto:siquirres@msp.go.cr);

**Proximity Police Matina**

Central Delegation Phone:

2718-1035

E-mail: [matina@msp.go.cr](mailto:matina@msp.go.cr);

**Proximity Police Guácimo**

Central Delegation

Phone: 2716-5224, 2716-6465

Fax: 2716-6465

E-mail: [juacimo@msp.go.cr](mailto:juacimo@msp.go.cr);

**SOUTH ZONE**

**I Judicial Circuit of the Southern**

**Zone Public Prosecutor's Office**

**South Zone Deputy Prosecutor's**

**Office** Telephone: 2785-03-63,

2785-03-53,

2785-03-64, 2785-04-442,

2785-04-41.

Fax: 2785-0369

E-mail: [pze-mpasiste@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:pze-mpasiste@poder-judicial.go.cr);

**Buenos Aires Prosecutor's**

**Office** Telephone: 2730-

5008, 2730-1646

Fax: 2730-1784

E-mail: [ba-fiscalia@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:ba-fiscalia@poder-judicial.go.cr);





### **Judicial Investigation Organism**

#### **Regional Delegation of Pérez Zeledón**

Telephone: 2771-3449, 2785-0378

Fax: 2771-3449

E-mail: oij-pze@poder-judicial.go.cr;

#### **Perez Zeledon Forensic Medical Unit**

Phone: 2785-0372

Ext: 7371

Fax: 2785-0371

E-mail: pze-umlegal@poder-judicial.go.cr;

#### **Buenos Aires Regional Unit**

Phone: 2730-5067

Fax: 2730-5081

E-mail: ba-oij@poder-judicial.go.cr;

#### **Patronato Nacional de la Infancia Address Brunca Region**

Telephone: 2772-2195

Fax: 2771-8783

#### **Buenos Aires Local Office Phone:**

2730-5154

Fax: 2730-5155

#### **Golfito Local Office Telephone:**

2775-0113

Fax: 2775-2153

#### **Corredores Local Office**

Phone: 2783-3481

Fax: 2783-5813



Coto Brus Local Office Phone:

2773-3239

Fax: 2773-3459

### **Hospital Centers**

Fernando Escalante Pradilla- Pérez Zeledón

Telefax: 2771-0874

### **Law Enforcement Delegations**

Central Delegation of Perez Zeledon

Telephone: 2771-3608, 2771-3447

Proximity Police Pavones Phone:

2770-5640

Proximity Police General Viejo

Phone: 2738-1035

Peñas Blancas Police Proximity Police

Phone: 2771-5389

Proximity Police Daniel Flores

Phone: 2771-5055

Proximity Police Repunta

Telephone: 2771-8152

Los Angeles Proximity Police

Phone: 2771-7711

Rivas Proximity Police

Phone: 2771-7442

Proximity Police San Pedro  
Phone: 2731-1010

Proximity Police Platanares  
Phone: 2737-0196

Pejibaye Proximity Police  
Phone: 2736-0160

Proximity Police Cajon  
Telephone: 2731-1523

Proximity Police Buenos Aires Phone:  
2730-0103, 2730-0117

Proximity Police Peje  
Phone: 2742-1119

Biolley Proximity Police  
Phone: 2743-1176

## **II Judicial Circuit of the Southern**

### **Zone Public Prosecutor's Office**

Deputy Prosecutor's Office of  
Corredores Telephone: 2785-  
9934, 2785-9933  
Fax: 2783-4553  
E-mail: [fiscalia-cne@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:fiscalia-cne@poder-judicial.go.cr);

Coto Brus Prosecutor's  
Office Phone: 2773-3264  
Fax: 2773-5426  
E-mail: [cbr-fiscalía@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:cbr-fiscalía@poder-judicial.go.cr);







**Golfito Prosecutor's**

Office Phone: 2785-8117

Fax: 2775-0672

E-mail: [fiscalia-gol@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:fiscalia-gol@poder-judicial.go.cr);

**Osa Prosecutor's**

Office Phone: 2788-8187

Fax: 2788-8266

E-mail: [osa-fiscalia@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:osa-fiscalia@poder-judicial.go.cr);

**Judicial Investigation Organism**

Neilly City Regional Delegation Phone: 2783-3325, 2785-9917

Fax: 2783-3183

E-mail: [oij-cne@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:oij-cne@poder-judicial.go.cr);

**Osa Regional Office**

Telephone: 2788-8549

Fax: 2788-8649

E-mail: [ac-oij-osa@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:ac-oij-osa@poder-judicial.go.cr);

**Hospital Centers**

Neilly City -Region Brunca Phone: 2783-4111, 2783-4244

Fax: 2783-3075

**Tomás Casas Casajús Hospital**

**Cortes City**

Telephone: (506) 2788-8003

Fax: 2788-7063





### **National Women's Institute (INAMU)**

Neilly City Regional Office Phone:

2775-0860

E-mails: [ofgolfito@inamu.go.cr](mailto:ofgolfito@inamu.go.cr)/[mnavarro@inamu@. go.cr](mailto:mnavarro@inamu.go.cr);

### **Law Enforcement Delegations**

Neilly City Central Branch Telephone:

2783-3474, 2783-3150

Proximity Police El Carmen

Phone: 2783-6027

Proximity Police San Jorge

Phone: 2732-1199

Paso Canoas Police Proximity Police

Phone: 2732-2402

Address: In front of the park.

Proximity Police La Cuesta

Telephone: 2732-2401

Proximity Police Cuervito

Phone: 2732-1756

Laurel Proximity Police

Phone: 2780-0016

Proximity Police El Roble Phone:

2780-0311



Proximity Police Naranjo

Phone: 2780-0460

Proximity Police Bella Luz Phone:

2775-1377

Central Delegation of Golfito

Phone: 2775-1022

Proximity Police Rio Claro Gulf 1

Telephone: 2789-9029

Proximity Police Rio Claro La Esperanza Phone:

2770-8201

Proximity Police Pavones Phone:

2770-8203

Proximity Police La Virgen Phone:

2776-0144, 2780-1899

Proximity Police Zancudo Phone:

2776-0166, 2776-0212

Central Delegation of Puerto Jimenez

Telephone: 2735-5114

San Vito Central Branch Phone:

2773-3225

Proximity Police San Marcos

Phone: 2784-0686

Proximity Police Sabalito

Phone: 2784-0322

Proximity Police Agua Buena Phone:

2734-0157

Central Delegation of Osa (Ciudad Cortés)

Phone: 2773-3225

Proximity Police Palmar Sur

Phone: 2786-6320

Proximity Police Palmar Norte

Phone: 2786-7006, 2786-7652

Proximity Police Sierpe

Telephone: 2788-1439

Sunday Proximity Police Phone:

2787-0011





